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FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY

Public Lands Administered by BLM California outside the California Desert Conservation Area

WILDERNESS

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction	1
Wilderness Review	1
Inventory	1
Study	1
Reporting	1
Intensive Wilderness Inventory	1
Wilderness Study Areas and Interim Management	2
Non-WSAs	2
Summary Table	3
Protest Process	9
Instant Study Areas	10
Interstate Intensive Inventory Units	11
Maps	11
Wilderness Study Phase Procedures	12
Final Initial Inventory Report	14
Map Index	16
Narrative Summaries	
Bakersfield District (CA-010-)	17
Susanville District (CA-020-)	67
Redding District (CA-030-)	141
Folsom District (CA-040-)	149
Ukiah District (CA-050-)	159
Riverside District (CA-060-)	175
Appendix A	191
Appendix B	192

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FINAL INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY REPORT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
(Except the California Desert Conservation Area)

INTRODUCTION

This report contains the wilderness inventory findings on specific public land inventory units in California. The narrative summary for each inventory unit also includes a discussion of public comments received on that inventory unit during the formal 90- day public comment period which followed the publication of our July 16, 1979 Draft Intensive Inventory Report. All public comments received in response to earlier requests for input on these units have been included.

WILDERNESS REVIEW

The Bureau's wilderness review process has three phases: inventory, study, and submission of a report to Congress. Public involvement is provided for in all phases of the process, including opportunities for comment, participation and review.

1. Inventory - First, BLM inventories the public lands to identify areas that meet the definition of wilderness established by Congress. Such areas are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). This report completes this phase on all public lands administered by the California State Office except for the interstate units identified in the report.

2. Study - Next, BLM studies each WSA using the BLM land-use planning system to analyze all values, resources, and uses within the WSA. The findings of the study determine whether the area will be recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

   In this phase wilderness, other uses, resources and values will be thoroughly examined. During the study BLM will actively solicit comments on these topics.

3. Reporting - When the study has been completed, a recommendation as to whether the WSA is suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness is submitted through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Reports on all WSAs must be submitted by October 21, 1991.

   ONLY CONGRESS CAN DESIGNATE AN AREA AS PART OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

   On September 27, 1978, BLM published the Wilderness Inventory Handbook - Policy Direction, Procedures, and Guidance for Conducting Wilderness Inventory on the Public Lands, detailing the guidelines for the Wilderness Inventory Process. More than 10,000 copies of the "Blue Book" have been distributed in California. It is available from the California State Office and BLM District Offices. The Handbook is made a part of this report by reference.

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

1. Wilderness Study Areas and Interim Management - Intensive Inventory units identified as Wilderness Study Areas are listed on the following pages along with their acreages. This inventory has identified 93 WSAs totalling 1,141,445 acres on public lands administered by the California State Office, BLM in California and Nevada, outside the California Desert Conservation Area. The decision on these WSA acreages becomes final 30 days following publication of the Notice in the Federal Register unless formally and publically amended and again published in the Federal Register. This formal identification of those public lands qualifying as Wilderness Study Areas will retain them under the restrictions imposed by Section 603-C of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Appendix A).

   In Section 603 Congress requires that BLM manage all public lands which meet the wilderness criteria in such a way as to not impair their suitability for wilderness preservation until Congress designates such areas as part of the Wilderness Preservation System, or denies such wilderness designation by legislative action.

   BLM's Draft Interim Management Policy and Proposed Surface Management Regulations were issued for public review and comment on January 12, 1979. Two key features are: (1) BLM will manage the public lands so that other resource use activities may continue with minimum interruption during the wilderness review process; (2) lands identified as meeting the roadless and wilderness characteristics criteria will be managed in accordance with the law to prevent their impairment for potential wilderness designation.

   The guiding principle of this management is that the impact an activity has on the lands' potential for wilderness designation, and not a particular activity, will be measured to determine if the activity will be allowed or regulated.

2. Non-WSAs - Wilderness inventory units and acreage which required intensive analysis, field evaluation and were found not qualified as Wilderness Study Areas have been dropped from any further wilderness considerations. The amount of intensive inventory acreage not meeting WSA criteria is 2,064,428 acres in 230 units. This includes some acreage within intensive inventory units containing WSAs but is acreage not meeting WSA criteria. This non-WSA acreage will no longer be subject to restrictions imposed by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and will return to other multiple use considerations. The decision on these non-WSA acreages becomes final 30 days following publication of the Notice in the Federal Register unless formally and publically amended and again published in the Federal Register.

SUMMARY TABLE
WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY FINDINGS

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-010-002			783	783
007	1,024		210	1,234
011	1,847			1,847
012	494		44	538
016			243	243
017			1,840	1,840
020	150			150
022	4,905		20	4,925
023	6,382		703	7,085
025	558			558
026	22,560		440	23,000
027	8,938			8,938
028			15,360	15,360
029	34,795		230	35,025
030	5,847		992	6,839
032	2,209		139	2,348
035			15,000	15,000
036	240			240
037	1,014		974	1,988
040			7,192	7,192
042	19,018		11,467	30,485
045	2,244		11,920	14,164
046	3,578		1,902	5,480
052			360	360
055	16,102		2,560	18,662
056	23,568		9,320	32,888
057	9,760		2,720	12,480
058	3,530		820	4,350
059	3,280		4,320	7,600
060	7,600		5,160	12,760
062	6,760		2,150	8,910
063	3,211		1,060	4,271
064	10,160		320	10,480
065	6,518		2,180	8,698
068	3,197			3,197
070	414			414
071			330	330
072	110		150	260
074			7,760	7,760
075			42,200	42,200
077	4,052		2,600	6,652
078			11,360	11,360
079	20,246		2,160	22,406
080	19,730			19,730
081	11,840		760	12,600
082	5,547			5,547
083			6,120	6,120
084			5,280	5,280
085			12,440	12,440
088	12,400		6,120	18,520
090	52,781		5,660	58,441

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-010-091A	520		150	670
091B			760	760
092	13,200		5,200	18,400
094	7,280		7,320	14,600
095	12,420		200	12,620
096			21,040	21,040
097			7,040	7,040
099	23,360		6,280	29,640
100	15,455		45	15,500
102	6,600		4,480	11,080
103	960			960
104			3,270	3,270
105		DEFERRED DECISION*		(3,760)
105A			2,360	2,360
105B	1,040			1,040
106			5,720	5,720
108	720		80	800
109			197	197
110			1,640	1,640
CA-020-002			8,400	8,400
003			19,080	19,080
004			12,310	12,310
005			6,430	6,430
006			9,700	9,700
102			11,260	11,260
102A			1,430	1,430
102B			440	440
103	11,575		155	11,730
103A			160	160
103B			3,400	3,400
104			3,600	3,600
104A			2,800	2,800
105			20,700	20,700
202			4,800	4,800
205			5,670	5,670
206			29,200	29,200
207			20,000	20,000
207A			1,700	1,700
208			9,570	9,570
208A			1,080	1,080
209			5,700	5,700
210			14,600	14,600
211			16,950	16,950
212			6,000	6,000
212A			1,310	1,310
303			32,760	32,760
303A			700	700
303B			1,200	1,200
304			15,460	15,460
305			8,970	8,970

*See page 10 - Interstate Inventory Units

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-020-306			25,540	25,540
307			10,200	10,200
308			16,200	16,200
308A			1,390	1,390
309			27,500	27,500
309A			2,400	2,400
310			27,000	27,000
310A			1,290	1,290
310B			2,495	2,495
311	20,650		800	21,450
312A			105	105
313			9,470	9,470
313A			5,280	5,280
313B			2,030	2,030
402			2,100	2,100
403	DEFERRED DECISION*			(12,790)
602			23,590	23,590
603			52,970	52,970
604			19,910	19,910
605			17,330	17,330
605A			2,590	2,590
605B			7,760	7,760
606			9,000	9,000
608			28,670	28,670
609			47,160	47,160
610			11,000	11,000
611			14,700	14,700
612	60,800	160	2,170	63,130
613			19,510	19,510
614			26,420	26,420
614A			800	800
615	17,140	76,065		93,205
616			8,900	8,900
617			7,370	7,370
617A			1,275	1,275
618	DEFERRED DECISION*			(25,255)
619	880	46,435		47,315
619A	23,060	67,285		90,345
619B			14,090	14,090
619C			6,240	6,240
619D			1,296	1,296
619E			470	470
619F			1,116	1,116
620			1,000	1,000
621	DEFERRED DECISION*			(2,290)
703			8,000	8,000
704			15,540	15,540
704A			640	640
705			31,220	31,220
705A			1,245	1,245
706			6,430	6,430

*See Page 10 - Interstate Inventory Units

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-020-708	4,330			4,330
802			5,900	5,900
803			5,200	5,200
804			44,700	44,700
805		45,790		45,790
805A			1,770	1,770
806			15,800	15,800
808			5,855	5,855
809			11,800	11,800
810			8,700	8,700
811			11,500	11,500
812			8,700	8,700
813			11,336	11,336
813A	DEFERRED DECISION*			(1,050)
813B	DEFERRED DECISION*			(4,310)
814			41,200	41,200
815			8,200	8,200
816	DEFERRED DECISION*			(26,290)
818			47,940	47,940
819			28,000	28,000
820	DEFERRED DECISION*			(5,830)
821	DEFERRED DECISION*			(3,525)
821A			1,240	1,240
822	DEFERRED DECISION*			(6,990)
823	DEFERRED DECISION*			(730)
904			48,000	48,000
905			6,900	6,900
905A			2,260	2,260
905B			3,402	3,402
905C			4,572	4,572
906			25,000	25,000
909			3,970	3,970
909A			4,900	4,900
910			12,000	12,000
911			9,230	9,230
911A			7,820	7,820
912			56,000	56,000
913	DEFERRED DECISION*			(44,870)
913A	13,050			13,050
913B	33,985			33,985
914	DEFERRED DECISION*			(46,450)
914A	DEFERRED DECISION*			(8,950)
915			15,000	15,000
916			5,400	5,400
917			17,760	17,760
918			67,040	67,040
919	DEFERRED DECISION*			(1,590)
1004	DEFERRED DECISION*			(14,390)
1004A			2,999	2,999
1005	DEFERRED DECISION*			(13,005)

*See Page 10 - Interstate Inventory Units

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-020-1006			42,000	42,000
1006A			2,420	2,420
1006B			2,060	2,060
1007			7,940	7,940
1008			11,720	11,720
1009			29,000	29,000
1009A			9,000	9,000
1010	DEFERRED DECISION*			(13,060)
1012	24,130			24,130
1013			110,000	110,000
1015			10,240	10,240
CA-030-101			17,440	17,440
201	18,690			18,690
203	11,632			11,632
204			760	760
402	2,397		4,254	6,651
501			640	640
503	200			200
504			68	68
CA-040-102	50			50
201	3,005		193	3,198
202			1,080	1,080
203	12,835		5,881	18,716
207			2,192	2,192
301A	6,677		893	7,570
301B	11,267		1,043	12,310
303	5,838		601	6,439
305A	40			40
305B	3,198		19	3,217
305C	318			318
308	640			640
CA-050-111	4,021			4,021
112	32,342		10,270	42,612
113			7,862	7,862
121			1,543	1,543
131			5,871	5,871
132	6,173			6,173
134			2,360	2,360
135			2,880	2,880
211	9,548			9,548
212	17,187			17,187
213			7,535	7,535
214	6,674		4,057	10,731
221			31,677	31,677
222			11,576	11,576
312			7,381	7,381
313			6,502	6,502
314			8,357	8,357
315			4,841	4,841
316			17,553	17,553
317	33,582		400	33,982

*See Page 10 - Interstate Inventory Units

Unit Number	Acres Public Land in WSA (by State) CA	NV	Acres Non-WSA	Total Public Land Acres
CA-050-318			10,425	10,425
319			5,624	5,624
331	7,183			7,183
332			7,350	7,350
CA-060-002	360			360
020A			2,027	2,027
020B			408	408
020C			947	947
020D			731	731
020E			2,477	2,477
020F			20	20
020G	11,342		76	11,418
021A	71			71
021B			76	76
022	2,131		590	2,721
023	5,265		105	5,370
024A	3,892		130	4,022
024B	24,419		6,587	31,006
024C	2,509		70	2,579
024D			1,000	1,000
024E			633	633
025A	14,573		7,509	22,082
025B			1,002	1,002
026	708		4,845	5,553
027A			38	38
027B			636	636
027C	5,489			5,489
027D			73	73
028	5,750			5,750
029	7,940		18	7,958
INVENTORY TOTAL ACREAGE (DEFERRED NOT INCLUDED)	834,545	306,900	2,064,428	3,205,873
ACREAGE DEFFERED*				235,135

*See page 10 - Interstate Inventory Units

PROTEST PROCESS

These final intensive inventory determinations are effective in 30 days. For the purposes of this determination, each inventory unit is considered individually and separately from every other inventory unit. Should any amendment to these determinations be made by the BLM State Director, California, as a result of new information received following this publication, that amendment will be formally published in the Federal Register and will become effective 30 days following such publication. This 30 day extension will apply only to the amendment and not to the original designations.

Persons wishing to protest any of the determinations of the intensive inventory units made herein shall have 30 days, after publication of the findings in the Federal Register, to file a written protest. Protests should address specific inventory units, must include a clear and concise statement of reasons for the protest, and must furnish supporting data to the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Protests must be received by the State Director on or before the 30th day unless postmarked on or before that date. The State Director, California will render a written decision on any protest so received. (Note: the cover letter transmitting this report will specifically identify the date of the protest period as well as mark the official date of release of this report.)

Any person adversely affected by the State Director's decision on a written protest may appeal such decision by following normal administrative procedures applicable at that time.

INSTANT STUDY AREAS (ISAs)

The law states that wilderness recommendations on all public land areas formally designated as Natural or Primitive areas prior to November 1, 1975 will be reported to the President by July 1, 1980. There are six areas in California meeting this requirement.

Area Name	Original Designation	Acreage	District	Inventory Unit Number
Baker Cypress/Lava Rock	Natural Area	1,148	Redding	CA-030-201
Bitterbrush	Natural Area	640	Susanville	CA-020-604
San Benito	Natural Area	1,500	Folsom	CA-040-309
Negit Island	Natural Area	197	Bakersfield	CA-010-109
Piute Cypress	Natural Area	760	Bakersfield	CA-010-046
Chemise Mountain	Primitive Area	3,941	Ukiah	CA-050-111

Considered only by themselves, five areas fail to meet the criteria for consideration for wilderness. They were included in the Intensive Inventory based upon their association with other public lands which may have wilderness characteristics. One unit, Negit Island, was evaluated as an individual unit because it is an island.

Some of the ISA units will have the study deferred, because they will be studied as a part of a larger Wilderness Study Area.

The Baker Cypress/Lava Rock ISA consists of two parcels totalling 1,148 acres, and will be studied as an integral part of the 18,690 acre Timbered Crater WSA, unit CA-030-201.

Negit Island ISA, Intensive Inventory Unit CA-010-109, a 197 acre island, failed to meet the wilderness criteria and will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness.

The northeastern portion of the Piute Cypress ISA is included in a 3,578 acre portion of unit CA-010-046 which has been designated as a WSA. That portion will be evaluated during the study phase along with the contiguous Forest Service RARE II Area.

Chemise Mountain, a 3,941 acre ISA comprising 3,581 acres of public lands, and 360 acres of private land under acquisition is included within unit CA-050-111 which was found to possess wilderness characteristics. The entire unit including the ISA will be studied in conjunction with all WSAs within the King Range National Conservation Area. These are WSAs CA-050-111 and CA-050-112.

The 1,500 acre San Benito ISA was a separate Intensive Inventory unit, CA-040-309, and was found to lack characteristics necessary for further consideration as wilderness. It will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness. This unit was erroneously listed as 1900 acres in the July report.

Bitterbrush ISA, a 640 acre unit within the boundary of unit CA-020-604 was found to be unsuitable for wilderness consideration. The entire 17,330 acre Intensive Inventory Unit did not possess characteristics necessary for further consideration for wilderness. This ISA will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness.

INTERSTATE INTENSIVE INVENTORY UNITS

Both the Susanville and Bakersfield Districts contain interstate intensive inventory units. These are roadless areas containing public land administered by more than one BLM State Office. Bureau wilderness review policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors on those inventory units crossing administrative boundaries. California's final intensive inventory decision is therefore deferred for the following units pending a joint inventory, analysis of public comments and a decision by the involved states.

Copies of these decisions will be mailed to all persons on California's wilderness mailing list when they are available.

Inventory Unit #	State Offices Involved
CA-010-105	Nevada & California
CA-020-403	Nevada & California
CA-020-618	Nevada & California
CA-020-621	Nevada & California
CA-020-813A	Nevada & California
CA-020-813B	Nevada & California
CA-020-816	Nevada & California
CA-020-820	Nevada & California
CA-020-821	Nevada & California
CA-020-822	Nevada & California
CA-020-823	Nevada & California
CA-020-913	Nevada & California
CA-020-914	Nevada & California
CA-020-914A	Nevada & California
CA-020-919	Nevada & California
CA-020-1004	Oregon & California
CA-020-1005	Oregon & California
CA-020-1010	Oregon & California

MAPS

Some comments were received disagreeing with the precise location shown for some features identified on the Draft Intensive Inventory maps. The scale of the published maps only permit a schematic representation of inventory findings and cannot accurately depict all surface features. More precise locations can be determined from the respective districts larger scale intensive inventory unit file maps.

WILDERNESS STUDY PHASE PROCEDURES

With the completion of the inventory phase, the Bureau of Land Management will now begin the study phase of the wilderness review program. The study phase involves the process of determining, through careful analysis, which Wilderness Study Areas will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and which will be recommended as nonsuitable. These determinations, made through the BLM land-use planning system, will consider all values, resources and uses of the public lands.

The process involves comparing the wilderness values of each of the Wilderness Study Areas with values for other resource uses which may be incompatible with wilderness; for example, mining, vehicular access, public utilities, development. A multiple-use planning approach will consider all uses. The final suitability recommendations will consider production and consumption as well as sensitive resources. The study phase must be completed by October 21, 1991.

Many comments received during the inventory phase of the wilderness review procedures pertained to study phase issues. Although the information could not be utilized during the inventory phase, these comments will be retained in the appropriate unit file and will be considered during the study phase. The inventory phase dealt solely with an analysis of the unit's wilderness values based on Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Appendix B).

Public meetings to be held in the near future will be utilized to gain further information, including additional resource data on the Wilderness Study Areas. This information will also be used in making our wilderness suitability recommendations.

At the present time, there are no plans to adhere to one study schedule for all Wilderness Study Areas. Each district will study individual Wilderness Study Areas in accordance with individual district planning schedules.

Individuals wanting to be involved during the study phase are urged to contact the individual districts having administrative jurisdiction over the involved Wilderness Study Area. Each individual district maintains a planning mailing list which will be utilized to obtain public comment and involvement during the study phase.

Persons wishing to be involved in future studies for any public lands should request their names be added to the appropriate district's list. Each request should indicate specific areas on the district that are of interest since planning efforts generally do not occur districtwide on the same time schedule.

Following are all California District addresses and the inventory unit code each uses. All inventory units which start with those codes will be studied through that office.

Bakersfield District Office — CA-010
800 Truxtun, Rm. 311
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Susanville District Office — CA-020
705 Hall Street
P.O. Box 1090
Susanville, CA 96130

Redding District Office — CA-030
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96001

Folsom District Office — CA-040
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Ukiah District Office — CA-050
555 Leslie Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Riverside District Office — CA-060
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

FINAL INITIAL INVENTORY REPORT OF JULY 16, 1979

The initial wilderness inventory findings reported in California's Wilderness Inventory Report of July 16, 1979 for the following inventory units are now final. The public lands in these units are no longer under the requirements of Section 603-C of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

Inventory Unit Numbers

CA-010-003	CA-010-004	CA-010-005
008	010	013
014	015	018
019	021	024
038	039	041
043	044	053
054	061	067
073	086	091- Except for Paoha Island
093	098	104
107		
CA-020-001	CA-020-101	CA-020-201
301	302	401
501	502	601
702	801	824
904	907	908
920	921	922
1014		
CA-030-100	CA-030-200	
CA-040-103	CA-040-104	CA-040-105
204	205	206
304	306	307
CA-050-114	CA-050-122	CA-050-133
215	223	231
311	333	341
400		
CA-060-001	CA-060-011	

The following Initial Inventory units have been appealed. Until such time as the appeal is resolved public lands in these units will continue to be administered under the requirements of Section 603-C of FLPMA.

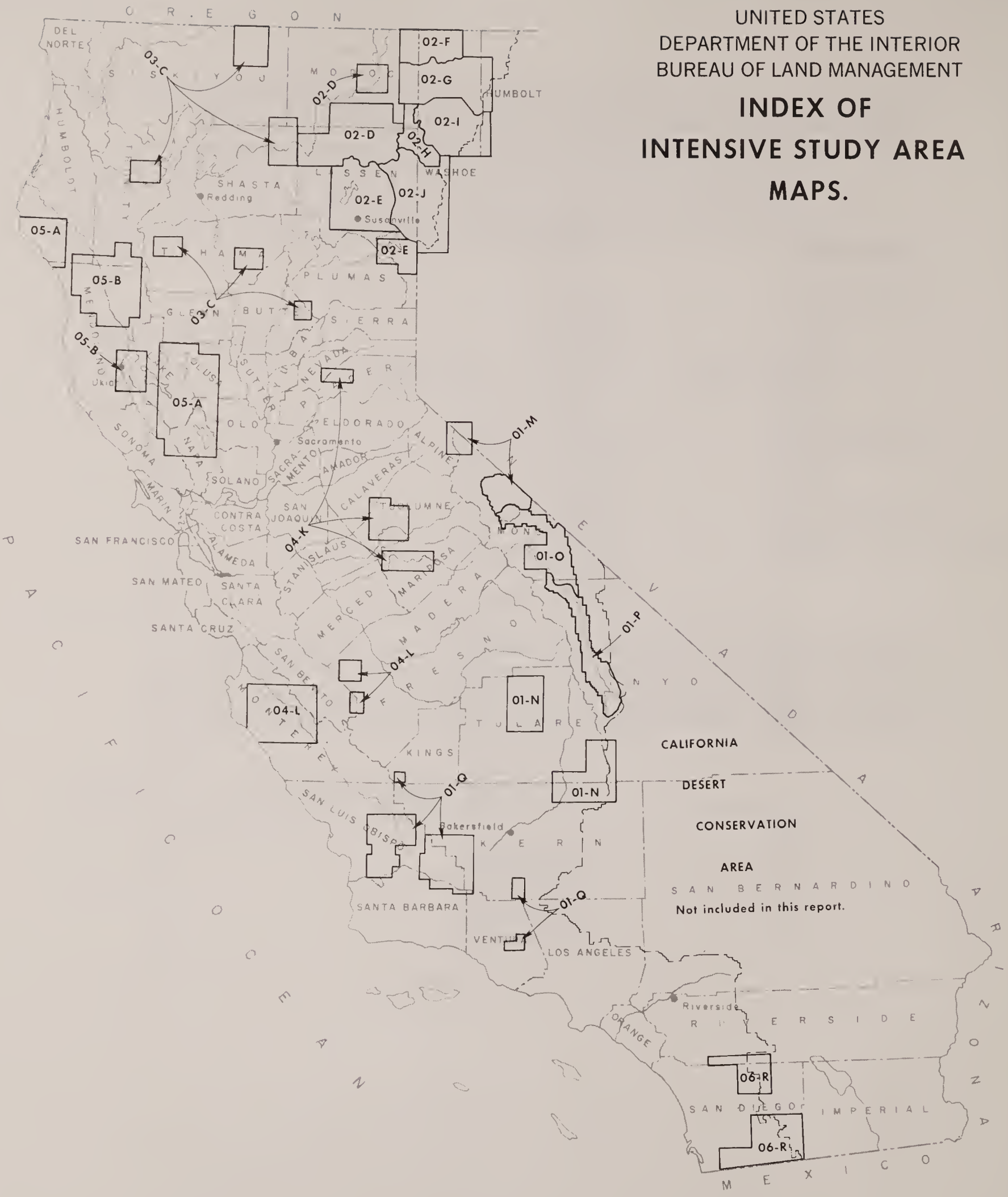
Unit Number	Public Land Acres
CA-010-013	6,800
033	35,580
047	33,580
069	15,800
087	16,160
101	740
CA-020-701	29,230
901	87,805
1001	45,780
CA-030-300	75,800
400	30,400
500	65,500
	443,175 acres

The following Initial Inventory units have, as a result of information received during the protest process, been placed in the Intensive Inventory Program. The final wilderness inventory findings for these units are reported herein. These are also subject to the 30-day protest period.

CA-010-084	
CA-010-091	Paoha Island only - shown as CA-010-091A
CA-020-305	
CA-020-307	
CA-020-610	
CA-020-802	
CA-020-803	

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INDEX OF INTENSIVE STUDY AREA MAPS.



CA-010-002 Hopper Mountain
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located northeast of Santa Paula and consists of two small parcels of public land bordering the southern boundary of Los Padres National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This 783 acre unit includes one, small non-public inholding. It is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, nor does it adjoin any Federal land which possesses wilderness characteristics. It has therefore been excluded from further wilderness consideration.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is developed for oil and gas production. There are several roads which cross the unit to the oil fields within the Forest Service boundary.

IV. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments received support the Bureau findings. One comment dealt with potential archeological values which are supplemental and therefore, not a primary wilderness inventory consideration.

CA-010-007 Tepusquet Peak
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit consists of two parcels - the northern parcel is located immediately north of Pine Canyon whereas the southern parcel is situated east of Tepusquet Canyon.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 1,024 acres, 210 acres of the inventory unit having been excluded for lack of wilderness values, and is not of sufficient size to make practicable its use and preservation in an unimpaired condition. Both parcels are entirely public land and adjoin RARE II areas of the Los Padres National Forest which have been recommended for further planning. The north parcel adjoins the Miranda Pine RARE II Area; the south parcel lies adjacent to the Tepusquet Peak Rare II Area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography of the unit ranges from moderate to rugged hillside terrain. The landform supports a dense chaparral cover type with some scattered enclaves of oak.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments were made in the southernmost portion of the unit due to the existence of man-made imprints. The existence of the improved and maintained road in Colson Canyon excluded the area north of the road from further inventory consideration. In addition, this segmented portion does not adjoin any area of Federal lands with wilderness characteristics. Various man-made developments also necessitated a 40 acre exclusion from the unit. This exclusion is located in Sec. 24, T. 10 N., R. 32 W., S.B.M.

The remainder of the unit has been recommended as a Wilderness Study Area due to its overall natural character with substantially unnoticeable man-made imprints.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's limited size, lack of vegetative screening, and extensive topography limit opportunities for seclusion. However, in conjunction with the RARE II areas, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are greatly increased. Additional size, topography, and vegetation contribute to these opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments received supported the Bureau findings. One comment addressed potential oil and gas reserves in the area. This potential will be considered during the Study Phase.

CA-010-011 Santa Lucia Wilderness
(Map 01-Q)

The public lands in Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, T. 31 S., R. 15 E., M.D.M. were designated as part of the Santa Lucia Wilderness in the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 (PL95-237). The Los Padres National Forest is currently developing a management plan for the Santa Lucia Wilderness.

CA-010-012 Garcia Mountain
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit consists of several small parcels of public land scattered along the western edge of the Garcia Mountain and Stanley Mountain RARE II Areas, which have been recommended by the Los Padres National Forest for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area consists of 494 acres of public land. There are no non-public inholdings. A total of 44 acres have been removed from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landscape varies throughout the scattered parcels and includes grassy meadows; small creeks lined with riparian growth; low, rounded, grass-covered hills dotted with oak; and steeper, more rugged hills densely vegetated with chaparral.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Some portions of the unit have been excluded due to the presence of man-made features which are substantially noticeable within those areas. The features include a well graded dirt road, which traverses the southern edge of the public parcel in Sec. 5, T. 32 S., R. 16 E., M.D.M., and which necessitates a boundary adjustment. The southern public parcel in Sec. 3, T. 32 S., R. 16 E., M.D.M., has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area due to the presence of a maintained Forest Service road and a power line and maintenance road, all of which traverse the area. Some fencelines also transect the parcel.

The remainder of the unit generally retains its primeval character and influence, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The Wilderness Study Area provides only limited opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to its limited size and narrow, irregular configuration. But when considered as part of the adjacent RARE II areas, the opportunities provided may be outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of public comments supported the Bureau findings. One comment addressed the inventory unit's potential for oil and gas development. This and other potential resource values will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review process.

CA-010-016 Sespe-Frazier
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located southwest of Gorman and consists of two small parcels of public land bordering the eastern edge of the Sespe-Frazier RARE II Area which has been recommended for further planning by the Forest Service.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 243 acres of totally public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topographically, the unit consists primarily of low hills, the northern parcel displaying relatively flat hilltops. Vegetation ranges from low shrubs to scattered oaks and annual grasses in the northern parcel with California juniper dominating the southern parcel.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Both parcels have been impacted by man, their natural character having been degraded to the point that wilderness values are no longer present. The northern parcel is laced with vehicle tracks and hill climbs, while the southern parcel contains a segment of a maintained road as well as some primitive vehicle routes and the remnants of livestock facilities. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable within the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the restrictive size of the unit, opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking. Although the unit adjoins RARE II lands, the pervasive influence of the man-made encroachments provides a constant reminder of man's presence within the unit and severely restricts free movement through the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment received addressed potential archeological values in the region. These values are supplemental, and therefore not a primary consideration in the inventory phase. One comment recommended that the unit be utilized as a "buffer zone" to protect adjacent RARE II lands, but the unit does not possess wilderness values and the buffer zone concept is not relevant to the wilderness inventory.

CA-010-017 Orchard Peak
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is situated north of Antelope Valley, immediately northwest of Highway 46 and Keck's Road Junction. It is bounded entirely by non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit totals approximately 1840 acres and is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The unit consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topographical features consist of a rugged, hillside terrain with a primary ridgeline transecting the unit in a northwest-southeast direction. Summit elevations range to 3,000 feet. Steep and precipitous rock walls constitute the area south of the ridgeline whereas the northern area reflects gentler slopes. Vegetation is sparse consisting of some shrubs and annual grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit displays a few man-made imprints that impair the natural character of the immediate landscape. Orchard Peak contains a communication site facility which can be readily observed within the immediate vicinity. In addition, an associated service road leads to the structure.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's narrow configuration, size, lack of vegetative screening and topography, as well as unnatural features serve to severely limit opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation. The scarcity of concealing natural features would accommodate very few visitors without seriously impairing their opportunities to isolate themselves from one another.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments were received regarding potential mineral values of the unit. All resource values in the unit will be evaluated under the Bureau's Planning Process.

CA-010-020 Black Mountain
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located east of Santa Margarita and is adjacent to the Black Mountain RARE II Area of the Los Padres National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 150 acres. It consists entirely of public land and adjoins the Black Mountain RARE II Area which has been designated by the Forest Service for further planning.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of low rolling, rounded hills supporting a dense chaparral cover type.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained its primeval influence and character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by natural forces. The imprint of man's work remains substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's size, low vegetative characteristics, and limited topographical variation limit opportunities for solitude as well as primitive recreational opportunities. However, in conjunction with the Black Mountain RARE II Area, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation may exist.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments regarding this unit supported the Bureau findings. One comment pointed out the existence of a transmission line on the southern border of the unit. This transmission line was noted during inventory, but has not been considered as an impact to the natural character due to its location outside the Wilderness Study Area. One comment addressed potential oil and gas reserves in the unit. This potential will be considered during the Study Phase.

CA-010-022 Sheep Ridge
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is approximately 4,905 acres in size and is located north of Three Rivers. It is bounded to the northeast by Sequoia National Park lands which have been proposed for wilderness. Portions of the west and southwest edges border a maintained road along Sheep Creek. A portion of the eastern boundary abuts the maintained road along the North Fork of the Kaweah River. The remaining boundaries are formed by non-public land. A 20 acre portion located in Sec. 26, T. 16 S., R. 28 E., M.D.M. was excluded due to its non-contiguous alignment to the inventory unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 4,905 acre Wilderness Study Area consists of solidly blocked public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landscape is dominated by a rugged, steep ridge located between Sheep Creek and the North Fork of the Kaweah River. Dense chaparral covers the drier, southfacing slopes, while the remaining slopes support scattered oaks and grasses. Some small canyons dissect the flanks of the ridge and a small creek traverses the unit from west to east, separating Sheep Ridge from Burnt Point Mountain.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally retains its primeval character and influence. The imprint of man's work, which includes a few primitive vehicle routes, is substantially unnoticeable due to terrain and vegetative screening and the deteriorated nature of the vehicle routes.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Rugged terrain and vegetative variety combine to create areas of seclusion, as well as a challenging environment for primitive types of recreation. When considered as one roadless unit with the adjacent National Park lands which have been proposed as wilderness, opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation become outstanding. In addition, those portions of the North Fork of the Kaweah River that are located within the unit provide excellent opportunities for water-related activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All comments received supported the Bureau's recommendations.

CA-010-023 Milk Ranch/Case Mountain

(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit consists of six parcels of public land adjoining the western boundary of Sequoia National Park. All of the parcels are located in the Three Rivers area and all but one border lands that the Park Service has endorsed for wilderness. The southernmost parcel also adjoins the Dennison Peak RARE II area which the Forest Service has recommended for further planning.

The public land parcel located in Sec. 24 and 25, T. 16 S., R. 28 E., M.D.M. has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area because it does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land, it is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and it does not adjoin any Federal lands which have been found to possess wilderness characteristics.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area is 6,382 acres and consists entirely of public land. A total of 703 acres have been excluded from further consideration due to the lack of wilderness values. Four hundred and eighty acres of the non-public land adjacent to the unit on Case Mountain is under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management for acquisition. The acquisition proposal includes the stipulation that the present owner be allowed to log his land, although the Giant Sequoias would be protected. At the termination of the logging activity, the acquired area will need to be evaluated for wilderness potential.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography varies within the unit from steep, rugged mountains (Milk Ranch Peak, Case Mountain) to the lower, more rolling hills in the north. Vegetation varies with topography, with the lower hills supporting oak woodland and scattered chaparral communities and the higher mountains supporting coniferous forests. A few stands of Giant Sequoia occupy portions of the Case Mountain parcel. Numerous intermittant creeks transect the areas, supporting riparian growth along the banks.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit, as a whole, has generally retained its natural character. Man's works, which include a few unimproved vehicle routes, are substantially unnoticeable due to screening by either terrain or vegetation. In most of the parcels, access is limited by the rugged terrain, thereby preventing human encroachment.

The Case Mountain parcel contains a graded road that was erroneously omitted from the original Wilderness Inventory Map. This road leads to the non-public land in Sec. 36, T. 17 S., R. 29 E., M.D.M. from Cinnamon Gap and thereby divides the parcel into two separate parcels, each retaining a common boundary with the Park Service wilderness proposals. The road also cuts off a small portion of the parcel in Sec. 26, T. 17 S., R. 29 E., M.D.M.

In the Milk Ranch Peak parcel, a concrete powerhouse conduit, which traverses the northwest corner of Sec. 3, T. 17 S., R 29 E., M.D.M., has been excluded from further Wilderness Study Area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Vegetative and terrain diversity within each parcel provide some opportunities for solitude through their screening effect, but the restricted size and irregular shape of the units limits freedom of unconfined movement as well as opportunities for a high quality primitive recreation experience. In conjunction with the adjacent Park Service lands, which have been proposed for wilderness designation, the area would provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation by adding more land area as well as more diverse terrain and vegetative types.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of the comments supported the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed wildlife values in the area. These values will be considered in the Study Phase. One comment indicated the existence of the concrete conduit in the Milk Ranch Peak parcel. A subsequent field check resulted in the exclusion of the conduit from the Wilderness Study Area.

CA-010-025 Moses
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located northeast of Springville and contains approximately 558 acres. The area adjoins the Sequoia National Forest Moses Rare II Area while the remainder is surrounded by non-public land. The Forest Service has designated the RARE II tract for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 558 acre Wilderness Study Area consists of solidly blocked public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the unit contains moderate to steep slopes with a dense growth of chaparral and several stands of oak woodland along intermittant creek areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit displays a primeval environment with no substantially noticeable man-made imprints. A revegetated, unobtrusive vehicle route traverses a portion of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

As an isolated unit, the current size limits opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. However, in conjunction with the adjacent RARE II tract, the expanded size and physiographic screening combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The commments received supported the Bureau's findings.

CA-010-026 Owens Peak
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is bounded on the south by State Highway 178, on the west by the Canebrake Road, on the north by the Nine Mile Canyon/Kennedy Meadows Road, and on the east by the California Desert Conservation Area Boundary. The CDCA landscape is part of the inventory unit number 158 which has been identified as a Wilderness Study Area in the Desert Inventory process.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 22,560 acre area is predominantly public land. There are two non-public inholdings, one on Spanish Needles Creek and one at the head of Three Pines Canyon, totalling 662 acres. Non-public land in Lamont Meadows, Chimney Meadows and along State Highway 178 have been excluded from the unit. Also, 440 acres of the unit have been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit includes the west face of the Sierra Nevada Crest from Walker Pass to north of Nine Mile Canyon. The ridge rises rather abruptly from the sagebrush meadows to the rugged rocky peaks.

The unit displays a unique melding of vegetative types. The primary vegetative type is pinyon; however, there are outstanding examples of Joshua tree woodland near the Walker Pass area, big sage/rabbit brush associations and mixed conifer at the higher elevations. Where these vegetative types come together, interesting and unusual combinations of plants can be seen growing in association with one another.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of the BLM campground and associated developments, a few primitive vehicle routes, the road to the non-public land on Spanish Needles Creek, the telephone line and associated maintenance route paralleling Highway 178, and the Pacific Crest Trail, the area is in a natural condition. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable throughout the unit. Non-conforming improvements have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

There are outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation throughout the unit. The variable terrain and vegetation enhance these opportunities by providing seclusion and challenging natural features.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were received which supported the Bureau findings. A few comments related to other potential resource values in the unit, including possible hydroelectric power plant sites and mineral values. These values will receive consideration during the Study Phase. One comment states that roads are present within the Wilderness Study Area and that noise and air pollution from Highway 395 detract from the naturalness of the unit. Any roads meeting the Bureau definition have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. Outside influences, such as noise and air pollution, are not wilderness inventory considerations.

CA-010-027 Sacatar Meadows
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the south by non-public lands in Scodie and Big Pine Meadows and the Kennedy Meadows Road, on the north by the Sequoia National Forest and on the east by the California Desert Conservation Area. The CDCA lands are part of inventory unit 157 and have been identified as a Wilderness Study Area. The northern portion of the inventory unit adjoins the South Sierra RARE II Area which has been designated as non-wilderness.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 8938 acre unit being recommended is comprised of nearly all public land with one small inholding of approximately 50 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit includes the lateral ridges extending west from, and the western slopes of, the Sierra Crest. Vegetative cover in the unit is primarily pinyon. Nearly all of the big sage meadows are non-public land and have been excluded from the unit. The rocky lateral ridges rise rather sharply from the Sacatar and Scodie Meadow areas to elevations over 8,000 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are a few unobtrusive primitive vehicle routes and range improvements located in the unit. The major developments in the area include a subdivision; however, these are included on non-public land fingers extending into the unit, leaving the unit itself affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The irregular configuration of the unit and the limiting nature of the non-public land pattern greatly limit opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit itself. However, when considered with the adjoining CDCA Wilderness Study Area, there are outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. Several comments addressed potential mineral and utility site values in the unit. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process. Two comments also addressed the existence of roads and hydroelectric generation plant sites within the Wilderness Study Area. A concern was further expressed regarding the unit's proximity to the outside influences of Highway 395. All roads meeting the Bureau definition as well as substantially noticeable man-made imprints have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. Furthermore, influences outside the Wilderness Study Area such as sights, sounds, odors, etc. are not wilderness inventory criteria.

CA-010-028 Bear Mountain
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on all sides by the BLM maintained Long Valley Loop Road and private property lines where the road crosses non-public land. The squarish unit contains approximately 15,360 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists of 100 percent public land. Non-public lands along its northern, southern and eastern edge have been excluded.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is located between the Chimney Creek drainage and the Long Valley drainage. The periphery of the unit is cut with numerous steep walled short canyons leading into the center of the unit. The central portion of the unit flattens out into a long, narrow, north-south trending mountain top. Primary vegetation in the unit is pinyon pine and typical scattered understory plants. The canyons contain sage brush/ rabbit brush meadows and occasional riparian communities.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

When viewed from the perimeter road the unit appears to be in a natural condition. The steep canyons are essentially free from the imprints of man's work. However, once into the unit the evidence of man's work predominates. There are four separate pinyon conversion areas. These chainings dominate the landscape from nearly all vantage points out of the peripheral canyons.

Return to natural conditions in this area is expected to be quite slow because of the slow growing nature of pinyon pine, the extent of slash piles and debris left, and the alteration of the hillsides by heavy equipment.

There is a developed maintained road leading from the Loop Road to the BLM radio repeater on Bear Mountain. This road passes several structures and habitations and several major mining excavations which are visible from much of the unit. A maintained road branches southward from the repeater access road, extending approximately three miles along the eastern edge of the largest pinyon conversion area and beyond to an occupied habitation. A developed road extends from the non-public land at Chimney Ranch south through two of the chainings to an old mill site. There are several former roads branching off of this road to abandoned mining operations. This road services active mining claims near the mill site. The pervasive influence of the widespread developments degrades the natural character of the unit to the point that it no longer appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited in the narrow strip of roadless natural land which rings this inventory unit. While there may be localized opportunities for solitude in some of the untrammaled canyons, these opportunities could not be considered as outstanding due to the limiting factors of size, shape and topographic location of the untrammeled portions of the unit. The Pacific Crest Trail crosses the unit.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments stated that the unit met the wilderness criteria. But due to the impact to its natural character, it was determined that the unit did not qualify under the naturalness criterion. Several comments related to the rehabilitation potential of the pinyon conversion areas. The chainings occurred over 10 years ago. To date, the disturbed areas show little evidence of return to natural condition. To achieve a state of apparent naturalness in these areas would require a substantial amount of time and effort, including the necessity for heavy machinery to remove existing slash piles and debris. Rehabilitation in this unit would require effort much greater in degree than that prescribed as qualifying for consideration in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook (published Sept. 27, 1978). A few comments addressed Study Phase considerations, such as oil and gas potential and the uniqueness of the ecosystem represented in the unit. These resource values will be considered through the Bureau Planning Process. A few comments supported the Bureau findings.

CA-010-029 Rockhouse
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the south by State Highway 178, on the east by the Canebrake/ Long Valley Road, and on the north by the Kennedy Meadows Road. The western boundary is common with that of the Sequoia National Forest. A portion of the adjoining Forest Service land lies within the existing Domeland Wilderness Area. The adjoining Woodpecker RARE II Area has been recommended for further planning. The main unit is divided into two parcels by the Rockhouse Basin Road.

A small, public parcel located in Sec. 30, T. 22 S., R. 36 E., M.D.M. is also a part of the unit due to its adjacency to the Woodpecker RARE II Area. This parcel is bounded to the north and south by non-public land, to the east by a maintained access road to habitations, and to the west by Sequoia National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 34,795 acre unit is predominantly public land. There are three non-public inholdings amounting to approximately 680 acres. A total of 230 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to Long Valley Campground, Rockhouse Basin Road and its associated mining activity.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of the pinyon covered mountains along the eastern side of the Kern River South Fork drainage. Rocky slopes and poor soil development limit vegetative cover in many portions of the unit. Located on the eastern edge of the center of the unit is a long narrow big sage covered valley.

The southern end of the unit, which drains into Chimney Creek, has massive rock ridges and outcrops.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area along the road to Rockhouse Basin shows signs of mining activity both past and present. This corridor has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. There are several primitive vehicle routes emanating out of Rockhouse Basin into the public lands to the east; however, these ways do not detract from the overall naturalness of the unit. Other primitive vehicle routes and evidence of fire suppression activities in the unit are substantially unnoticeable. With the exception of the Rockhouse Basin Road and Long Valley campground exclusions, the unit appears to retain its primeval character and influence.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are prevalent throughout this unit. Rugged challenging topography, perennial streams, variable terrain and vegetation all contribute to these opportunities. These outstanding opportunities are greatly enhanced when considered as part of the adjoining Woodpecker and Domeland areas.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. Several comments addressed potential resource values such as oil and gas reserves, mineral resources, prospective utility and power sites. These potential land use resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process. A few comments indicated the existence of roads and hydroelectric power sites within the unit; one comment also indicated that only the portion of the Wilderness Study Area adjacent to Domeland Wilderness Area be further studied. All roads meeting the Bureau definition and substantially noticeable man-made imprints have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. Furthermore, the remaining majority of the unit contains wilderness values and will require a comprehensive analysis during the Study Phase.

CA-010-030 Scodie
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This multiple parcel inventory unit includes the scattered public land parcels along the north side of the Scodie Mountains. It is generally bounded by Sequoia National Forest to the south, and by Highway 178, non-public land, and a telephone line to the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 5,847 acres and is entirely public land. The portion of the unit being recommended as a Wilderness Study Area includes only those public land parcels contiguous to the Scodie RARE II Area. This area has been designated by the Forest Service for further planning. The small chain of parcels near Highway 178 has been excluded from further consideration because the parcels are less than 5,000 acres and not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. A total of 992 acres was eliminated due to unnatural features in the inventory unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit's topography is comprised of the Scodie Mountains foothills and consists of steep, rocky terrain with a few interior drainages and canyons. Summit elevations range to 5,800 feet. Vegetative cover type varies from pinyon and scattered digger pine with sagebrush understory in the north to Joshua tree and mixed desert shrub communities in the south.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit's natural character has generally remained intact largely reflecting substantially unnoticeable man-made imprints. Field inventory analysis revealed a few minor impacts that required several boundary adjustments.

The eastern portion of the southernmost parcel displays man-made activities that impair the natural character of this area. A road to a spring, a telephone line, and obtrusive vehicle routes degrade this segment of the parcel. In addition, the switchback nature of Highway 178 encroaches upon the immediate area. In order to exclude these imprints, the boundary of this parcel was adjusted to coincide with the primitive vehicle route paralleling Canebrake Creek.

A sandpit was found approximately one-quarter mile west of Highway 178 in the northwest quarter of Sec. 36, T. 25 S., R. 36 E., M.D.M. The unit boundary was adjusted to exclude this activity. A telephone line traverses a portion of the unit and impairs the primeval character of the immediate vicinity. The line is located in portions of Sections 22, 23 and 26, T. 25 S., R. 36 E., M.D.M. The unit boundary was modified to exclude the telephone line.

An improved road and a network of vehicle routes necessitated additional adjustments in small portions of the unit. The improved road and vehicle route network are respectively situated immediately northeast of Onyx and on the non-public land in the Scodie Canyon area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The component parcel's size and physiographic shape limit opportunities for solitude. In conjunction with the Scodie RARE II Area, the added size and topographical diversity of the contiguous parcels offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. A few comments addressed potential mineral values and unique floristic features of the unit. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-032 Domeland
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is situated north of Onyx and is bounded by Sequoia National Forest to the north with non-public land and a ranch road bordering the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 2,209 acre Wilderness Study Area consists entirely of public land and adjoins the Forest Service Domeland Wilderness Area. A total of 139 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to the existence of unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists primarily of south-facing slopes overlooking the South Fork Valley. A portion of the South Fork of the Kern River traverses the unit. Rocky and steep grades are predominantly indicative of the unit's terrain. The sparse vegetative cover is varied and includes pinyon-juniper associations, dispersed digger pine, riparian growth, a shrub understory and annual grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

An improved ranch road in support of livestock operations was discovered entering small segments of the unit. This necessitated a boundary adjustment. The road branches east and west immediately south of the unit. Both branches traverse portions of the unit and boundary adjustments have been made to exclude these areas from the unit.

In addition, the road to Burnt Canyon as well as numerous vehicle routes and private developments in the extreme western portion of the unit warranted a boundary adjustment so that these visual encroachments were also excluded from the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to present size, rounded topographical shape and lack of vegetative screening, the unit's opportunities for solitude are limited. However, in conjunction with the existing Domeland Wilderness Area, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments agreed with Bureau findings. A few comments addressed the potential mineral values within the unit. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-035 Temblor Range
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located southwest of Taft and is bounded by Bureau of Land Management land and non-public parcels to the north and south and by non-public land to the east and west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit totals 15,000 acres with approximately 10 percent non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains an extensive portion of the Temblor Mountain Range. Rugged terrain with steep hills ranging from 2,000-3,000 feet make up the unit. The landform supports sparse vegetation with annual grasses and various shrubs, predominantly salt bush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Much of the unit displays various man-made improvements and activities. The portion lying northeast of the primary ridgeline discloses substantially noticeable imprints that visually dominate the landscape. These include former mining activity and prospects, abandoned oil drilling sites, a communication line and a road. Furthermore, numerous vehicle routes traverse the hills and can be easily observed from almost any point within the area. A vehicle route follows the primary ridgeline and appears to have initially resulted from a fence installation project. Through repeated use a substantial vehicle route has resulted. The panorama from this fenceline route reveals the pervasive presence of ridgeline vehicle routes. The presence of man's work is overwhelming throughout the immediate landscape. The area's natural integrity has been seriously impaired.

The remainder of the unit consists of a narrow southeastern/northwestern band and displays less evidence of permanent improvements or man-made activity. Encroachments in this portion of the unit are limited to several primitive vehicle routes, fencelines, livestock/wildlife structures such as water tanks, troughs and guzzlers. Two power transmission lines transect the unit---one services the telephone repeater site located on the primary eastern ridgeline.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The steep and rugged terrain of the Temblor Range provides some opportunities for solitude. However, the particular linear configuration of the unit severely restricts extensive opportunities for isolation and freedom of unconfined movement.

The portion of the unit that retains most of its natural character is long and narrow with an average width of 1-2 miles. Although a few short canyons exist throughout the unit, the general lack of physiographical and vegetative screening as well as the narrow width would accommodate few visitors without seriously impairing their opportunities for solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments received supported the Bureau findings. A few comments stated that the unit provides both solitude and primitive recreation opportunities, but the shape and conformity of the more natural portion of the unit, combined with the relative lack of topographic and vegetative screening, severely limit these opportunities to the point that they cannot be considered outstanding. A few comments addressed potential oil and gas and other mineral resource values in the unit. These values will be considered through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-036 Spoor Canyon
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit consists of public land located south of New Cuyama and bordering the northern edge of the Fox Mountain RARE II Area that has been recommended by Los Padres National Forest for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 240 acre Wilderness Study Area consists entirely of public land and contains an active oil and gas lease.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit generally comprises juniper covered hilltops, although some of the drier, south-facing slopes are dominated by low shrubs and dense chaparral. Several steep-sided canyons transect the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Although an active oil and gas lease exists within the unit, it generally appears to have retained its natural character. Man's works, which include an old drill hole site, are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain variety and the deteriorated nature of the abandoned site.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to its extremely restrictive size. But when considered as part of the adjacent RARE II land, the opportunities provided would become outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment addressed the potential existence of oil and gas resources in the unit. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-037 Cuyama
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit consists of small parcels of public land located west of Ventucopa and bordering the eastern edge of the Cuyama and Fox Mountain RARE II Areas, both of which have been recommended for further planning by Los Padres National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area is 1,014 acres in size and contains no non-public inholdings. A total of 974 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The inventory unit consists primarily of low, rounded hills, although portions of the sandy Cuyama River bed are included. Vegetation consists mostly of coastal chaparral on the hillsides and is relatively non-existent in the riverbed.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of the unit have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area due to impacts by man which have degraded the natural character. These impacts include several primitive vehicle routes in the two southern parcels. A formerly constructed road leads through the southernmost parcel to an abandoned trailer, while an improved road leads southwest from Ventucopa, crossing segments of both southern parcels. It eventually terminates at a mining operation. Farther north, the improved road through Santa Barbara Canyon severs small portions of the western edge of the public parcel immediately east of the canyon.

The remainder of the unit, after exclusions, generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works, which include a telephone line that crosses the public parcel on the east side of Santa Barbara Canyon, are substantially unnoticeable due to the screening effect of the terrain variety.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are extremely limited within the unit due to its restrictive size and irregular configuration. But when considered in conjunction with the adjacent RARE II lands, opportunities could become outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment addressed the potential existence of mineral values within the unit. These resource values will be addressed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-040 Freeborn/Hubbard
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located west of Simmler and is bounded entirely by non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit totals 7,192 acres and consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is strikingly diverse consisting of rolling hills, a central canyon, rock outcroppings, mixed chaparral, oak woodland, and digger pine. Prominent peaks in the unit include Hubbard Hill with an elevation of 2,966 feet and Freeborn Mountain with an elevation of 3,312 feet. The topographical relief and varied floristic features blend together to provide very picturesque and contrasting vistas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The existence of a road used to support livestock operations bisects the unit through Anderson Canyon. The resultant two parcels are less than 5,000 acres and are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The bisecting road displays evidence of periodic maintenance, including grading in the canyon area and the existence of a culvert where the road crosses the creek. The two portions of the unit retain a relatively natural character, although several primitive vehicle routes, fencelines, and old drill hole sites exist within each.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Although opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within the two portions of the unit, the relatively small size of the two parcels combined with the overall narrow and irregular shape of the entire unit limit these opportunities to the point that they are not outstanding. Few visitors could be accommodated within each parcel without impairing opportunities for solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Numerous comments stated that although the unit is bisected by a road, the resultant parcels are of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. But the parcels' failure to meet the size criterion and the associated lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation have resulted in this unit's exclusion from further wilderness consideration. Several comments suggested closing the Anderson Canyon road or questioned its validity. The road is maintained and frequently utilized by the neighboring ranches to the east and west in support of their livestock operations. A few comments addressed potential oil and gas and other mineral values in the unit as well as high wildlife values. These values will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-042 Caliente Mountain
(Map 01-Q)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located north of New Cuyama. It is bounded to the north and west by non-public land, to the south by non-public land and a ranch road, and to the east by Horse Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals approximately 19,018 acres which includes approximately 465 acres of non-public land. A total of 11,467 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit includes a sizeable portion of the Caliente Mountain Range. The rugged and precipitous hills rise steeply from the valley floor with peaks along the primary ridgeline reaching elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 feet. Caliente Peak is the most prominent at 5,106 feet. Vegetation ranges from dense chaparral and juniper along the ridgeline to scattered shrubs and annual grasses in canyon floors. Panoramic and scenic views from Caliente Peak include Los Padres National Forest, Soda Lake, the Temblor Mountain Range, and the Elkhorn Plain and Scarp. The unit is known to contain paleontological values.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Various man-made activities and developments impair segments of the unit's natural integrity. The area west of Morales Canyon has been extensively utilized for oil and gas exploration. Developments such as oil drilling sites and structures, an associated network of roads and vehicle routes, and a FAA communication site visually dominate the western portion of the unit. The imprints impart the overall presence of man's work and, in addition, severely degrade the natural character of the immediate area.

Oil and gas developments also exist in southern portions of the unit; boundary modifications were made accordingly.

The road to Caliente Peak is used to support various livestock operations. At a livestock watering facility, the road reverts to a primitive vehicle route which is maintained by vehicle passage only.

The eastern portion of the unit contains a graded road and numerous vehicle routes. The existence of these encroachments necessitated a boundary alignment to the east fork of the Sulphur Canyon drainage.

The remainder of the unit has retained a high degree of natural character and primeval influence having been affected primarily by the forces of nature and exhibiting substantially unnoticeable man-made imprints.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation avail themselves throughout the Wilderness Study Area.

Along the primary ridgeline, in the juniper flats, within the canyons and in the lower foothills, visitors can find extensive opportunities for isolation as well as unconfined freedom of movement for primitive recreational activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. Several comments addressed potential mineral values, oil and gas reserves, utility site and route corridors. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. A few comments also indicated the existence of roads and transmission lines in the unit. All roads meeting the Bureau definition as well as substantially noticeable man-made imprints have been removed from the inventory unit. One comment expressed a concern regarding livestock ingression into the unit. Livestock grazing is compatible with wilderness designation and has been stated accordingly in the Wilderness Act of 1964. One additional comment indicated the presence of man's activities outside the inventory unit. Sights and sounds outside the inventory unit are not wilderness inventory considerations.

CA-010-045 Kelso Creek Valley
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located south of Onyx and adjoins the western boundary of the 48,000 acre Scodie RARE II Area which has been recommended by Sequoia National Forest for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

That portion of the inventory unit that meets the Wilderness Act criteria is 2,244 acres in size and consists entirely of public land. A total of 11,920 acres was eliminated due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit occupies the western edge of the Scodie Mountains and contains small portions of Kelso Creek Valley. Topography consists of steep, rounded hills dissected by numerous canyons. The many canyons drain westward leaving long, narrow, east-west trending tentacles of low hills protruding from the main Scodie Mountain mass. Vegetation consists predominantly of mixed shrubs and annual grasses, although a few Joshua trees dot the landscape and the higher elevations support pinyon pine and juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made in order to exclude areas where the works of man dominate the landscape. These man-made features include maintained roads, numerous primitive vehicle routes, and other developments, the majority of which are utilized in support of livestock operations. Every canyon entering the unit contains at least one road that leads to a windmill and stock water tank. Numerous vehicle routes branch from each of these roads and extend to every corner of the interior valleys. The paved Kelso Creek Road traverses the western portion of the unit. In addition, the southwestern portion of the unit contains evidence of mining activity in the vicinity of Rocky Point. The numerous roadcuts and switchbacks are evident on the hillsides as well as the excavations and slag piles created by the mining operation. The majority of these man-made features are substantially noticeable throughout the western portion of the unit.

A narrow, mountainous band of public land immediately adjacent to the Forest Service boundary generally retains its natural character. Few vehicle routes penetrate the unit to that point, leaving the area primarily free from the imprint of man's work.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

That portion of the unit that retains its natural character provides only limited opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to its small size and narrow configuration. But in association with the adjacent RARE II lands, the unit may provide outstanding opportunities due to added size and increased diversity of terrain and vegetation. The east-west trending ridges emanating from the Scodie Mountains lack outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to their narrow, irregular shape and the confining effect of the valley encroachments.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments stated that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics. That portion of the unit which retains its natural character and lies adjacent to the Forest Service RARE II area will be studied for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. Those portions of the unit where the natural character has been degraded or a combination of size, shape, and man-made encroachments has impaired opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation have been excluded from further wilderness consideration. A few comments recommended that the east-west trending ridges be retained for study due to their natural character. But the confining nature of their small size and narrow configuration, combined with the encroaching development in the canyons, precludes most opportunites for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A few comments supported the Bureau findings. Two comments addressed Study Phase considerations such as oil and gas and other mineral potentials. These values will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-046 Piute-Cypress
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by non-public lands and the Erskine Creek road, on the south by the Sequoia National Forest, and on the west by the Bodfish-Havilah Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 3,578 acre Wilderness Study Area contains one 80 acre non-public land inholding. A total of 1,902 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The heart of the unit is the Piute Cypress Grove. This dense grove of dwarfed Piute cypress grows on the steep north facing slope of Bald Eagle Peak. The lower slopes are digger pine, California juniper and dense brush. The steep, rocky south and west facing slopes of Bald Eagle Peak are dense chaparral. The Piute cypress grove has been designated as a Natural Area in order to preserve the natural values of this unique relict species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Natural Area itself is divided into three distinct units by the Forest Service Road. The public lands contiguous to each of these three fragments are in essentially a natural condition. The public lands contiguous with the fragment north of the Forest Service Road does contain some mining scars, a communication line and service road, and a former communication site. This portion of the unit is not contiguous with other Federal lands being considered for wilderness nor is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation as wilderness.

The public lands contiguous with the fragment of the Natural Area south of the Forest Service Road are essentially natural with some primitive vehicle routes and mine workings. A portion of these lands are crossed by the Borel Power Plant transmission line. These lands adjoin a tract of uninventoried Forest Service lands. Combined with these public lands, this area is still of insufficient size to make practical its preservation as wilderness.

The public lands contiguous with the fragment of the Natural Area east of the Forest Service road total approximately 3,662 acres. These lands are essentially natural and adjoin the 1,949 acre Cypress RARE II Area which has been identified for further planning. There are numerous adits, prospects, and a few jeep trails throughout the area but they are substantially unnoticeable. However, a small exclusion was made in Sections 23 and 24, T. 27 S., R. 33 E., M.D.M. due to mining activity in this portion of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive unconfined type of recreation do not exist in the three portions of this unit. When considered as part of the adjoining Forest Service Cypress RARE II Area, that portion of the unit east of the road does possess outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. A few comments addressed potential resource values of the unit such as off road vehicle recreation opportunities, potential oil and gas reserves. These resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-052 Walker Basin/Caliente Creek
(Map 01-N)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the east by the Bodfish-Havilah Road, on the north and west by Forest Service Lands, and on the south by non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 360 acre unit is totally public land. The unit does not adjoin lands administered by another Federal agency which have been identified as possessing wilderness characteristics. The unit does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use as wilderness.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments state that the unit possesses wilderness characteristics. But the unit does not meet the size requirement and does not adjoin any lands under consideration for wilderness. It has therefore been excluded from further wilderness consideration. Two comments addressed potential oil and gas and other mineral values in the unit. These values will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-055 Cerro Gordo
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit includes much of the west face of the southern Inyo Mountains north of Keeler. The unit is bounded by Highway 190 to the southwest, by the Cerro Gordo Mine Road to the southeast, by the ridgeline road to the north and east, and to the west by the Swansea Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains 16,102 acres and is entirely public land. The unit is separated from the two adjoining California Desert Conservation Wilderness Study Areas to the north and east by the identified roads. A total of 2,560 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Located in the southern Inyo Mountains, the unit consists of steep, rugged hillside terrain with summit elevations ranging to 8,400 feet. Steep canyon drainages transect the unit. Vegetation is sparse in the lower elevations and at the southern end of the unit. Creosote and other low desert shrubs predominate. The higher elevations and northern slopes support pinyon-juniper stands. The Wilderness Study Area is known to contain Wildrose Canyon Buckwheat and Inyo Laphamia-two plants listed on the CNPS rare and endangered plant list. The Saline Salt Tram transects the unit and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The existence of man-made activites and developments visually impairs portions of the unit's landscape. The location of mine excavations and structures, surface disturbances, and associated vehicle routes necessitated a boundary adjustment in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the unit. The visual impacts were excluded from the unit.

The remainder of the unit contains an abandoned tramway, a few unobtrusive primitive vehicle routes and inactive mine areas which are substantially unnoticeable due to the unit's variable topography and size. The Wilderness Study Area retains its natural character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are extensively available throughout the Wilderness Study Area. Diverse terrain and size are elements that enhance visitors opportunities to find isolation within the natural confines of the landscape.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. A few comments addressed existing mining activity and roads in the unit. All roads meeting the Bureau definition as well as substantially noticeable man-made imprints were removed from the inventory unit. A few comments also addressed Study Phase criteria of the unit such as potential mineral values and unique floral features. All such resource values will be analyzed during the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review Process.

CA-010-056 Southern Inyo
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit includes the public lands on the west face of the southern Inyo Mountains north and west of the Swansea-Cerro Gordo Road. The unit is bounded by the McIver Canal, Highway 190, non-public land, and the Mazourka Canyon Road to the west; and to the east by the Paiute and Mazourka RARE II Areas, a California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Study Area, and the ridgeline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals approximately 23,568 acres. A total of 9,320 acres was removed from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is located in the southern Inyo Mountains and consists of extremely rugged and steep terrain sloping down toward Owens Valley. Summit elevations range to 11,000 feet. Numerous interior drainages exist within the area. The landform supports mostly shrubs in low elevation areas to some pinyon-juniper at higher altitudes. The unit is known to contain Mojave Bisnaga - a plant on the CNPS rare and endangered plant list. The unit also contains habitat for the Inyo Salamander - a wildlife species on the Bureau list of sensitive species. The highly eroded very steep northern portion of the unit supports little vegetation but does display interesting combinations of colors, hues and erosional patterns.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Various man-made encroachments degrade portions of the unit's natural character. These activities visually dominate the immediate landscape and necessitated several boundary adjustments to exclude these impacts from the Wilderness Study Area. These activities and developments include mine excavations and structures, surface disturbances, and a network of associated vehicle routes and roads. These exist primarily in the southwest and extreme northern portions; boundary adjustments were made accordingly.

The remainder of the unit retains its natural character displaying a few scattered unobtrusive developments such as a portion of an abandoned tramway, a primitive vehicle route, and inactive mines. These man-made imprints are substantially unnoticeable within the rugged and varied topography of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Visitors to the Wilderness Study Area can easily find outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The area's extensive range and diverse topographical screening can accommodate numerous visitors without impairing one another's isolation and freedom of unconfined movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments regarding this inventory unit agreed with Bureau findings. Numerous comments addressed Study Phase considerations such as potential mineral deposits, unique floral features, annexation of the adjacent California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Wilderness Study Area, vehicular access to the primitive camp area and trailhead, and expansion of Wilderness Study Area boundaries. These considerations will be assessed during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. Several comments also recommended that the extreme northern portion of the unit be recommended as a Wilderness Study Area. However, the substantially noticeable man-made imprints impair the immediate landscape's natural character. Mining activity, structures, surface disturbances, associated vehicle routes, and roads serve to impair the naturalness of the area. Subsequently, no changes were made regarding these comments. One comment indicated the existence of the McIver Canal along the western boundary of the unit. The McIver Canal was excluded from the inventory unit. One comment noted the presence of surface disturbances at the Duarte Mine and in an area about three miles east of Keynot Peak. It further noted that an old road extends up Long John Canyon to an adit on private land in Section 21. The mines appear inactive and the access roads were unimproved and in poor condition. The surface disturbances have little effect on the overall naturalness of the unit and thus, have not been excluded. The area east of Keynot Peak is within the CDCA, which is not part of this inventory effort.

CA-010-057 Independence Creek
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit includes three blocks of public land along the west side of the Owens Valley northwest of Lone Pine. The western boundary of each of these blocks is common with Independence Creek RARE II Area which has been recommended for wilderness. The southernmost block is bounded on the south by the road which parallels Hogback Creek and non-public land, on the north by the road which parallels George Creek, and on the east by non-public land.

The central block in this unit is a narrow sliver of land located between the Inyo National Forest on the west, a road which skirts around the base of the Sierra scarp on the east, George Creek Road on the south and Bairs Creek on the north.

The northern boundary of the northernmost block is the Shepherd Creek Road, the southern boundary Bairs Creek Road. The eastern boundary of the inventory unit is non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area encompasses 9,760 acres of public land. A total of 2,720 acres of land have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit includes much of the broad rocky alluvial apron of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The smooth, gently sloping apron supports dense stands of big sage and other low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of a few scattered primitive vehicle routes, which parallel the drainages in the unit, the area is essentially free of man-made improvements. These vehicle routes are substantially unnoticeable because of the dense vegetation which extends from the edge of the route.

Field inventory revealed that the road which forms the eastern boundary in the central block extends north to Shepherd Creek. The portion of the inventory unit east of this road has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area for lack of size.

A fork in the Hogback Road separates a small portion of the southernmost unit from the whole. However, this fragment is also adjacent to RARE II land and is therefore considered as part of the Wilderness Study Area. Another road, which is used to maintain a water trough and pipeline system, bisects the southernmost unit. Again, the affected parcels retain their common boundary with the RARE II area and remain within the Wilderness Study Area. A flow measuring station on lower George Creek in Sec. 27, T. 14S., R. 35E., M.D.M. and some bulldozing work (small earthen dams) in the drainage in Sec. 29, T. 14S., R. 35E., M.D.M. have been excluded in this southernmost parcel.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive unconfined type of recreation do not exist in the small parcels when considered individually; however, when considered as part of the Independence Creek RARE II Area, these opportunities are greatly enhanced.

The vastness and isolation of the northern portion of the southernmost parcel contribute to its outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive, unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments received concurred with the Bureau findings. One comment indicated the presence of spreading and flood ditches and roads and trails within the unit. Non-conforming improvements have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area where found. Due to a lack of recent maintenance or use, many of the developments noted in the comment had little or no impact on the overall naturalness of the unit. The area's potential for such ground water recharge facilities will be considered in the Study Phase.

CA-010-058 Wonoga Peak
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit includes two small parcels of public land with western boundaries common to Wonoga Peak RARE II Area, which has been recommended for wilderness. The southernmost parcel is bounded on the east by the Horseshoe Meadow Road and on the north by the Diaz Creek Road and non-public land. The northern parcel is bounded on the north by non-public land and the east by the road to non-public inholdings.

A map correction of the Horseshoe Meadow Road alignment has resulted in an exclusion on the eastern edge of the southern parcel for lack of size in the severed portion.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 3,530 acre Wilderness Study Area includes no non-public land. A total of 820 acres has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area for lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit includes portions of the rocky alluvial apron of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The apron slopes from west to east and supports dense stands of big sage and other low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern parcel was not recommended for Wilderness Study due to the non-public land pattern and the extent of developments.

Two water trough/pipeline systems, with their associated maintenance roads, have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area in the southern parcel: one paralleling the North Fork of Lubkin Creek, the other in Sec. 30, T. 16S. R. 36E., M.D.M. The North Fork pipeline road divides the southern unit into two separate parcels. However, each parcel retains a common boundary with the Forest Service RARE II Area. An access road to private land in Sec. 14, T. 16S., R. 35E., M.D.M. leads south from the Diaz Creek Road and severs a small portion of the unit which has been excluded for lack of size. The excluded area does not adjoin any lands under consideration for wilderness. A material site on the western edge of Horseshoe Meadow Road in Sec. 19, T. 16S., R. 36E., M.D.M. has been excluded from the WSA due to its impact on the naturalness of the immediate area.

With the exception of a few scattered unobtrusive primitive vehicle routes, the remainder of the area is free from the evidence of man's work.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation do not exist within the unit itself; however, when considered as part of the adjoining RARE II area, the undeveloped, unroaded area does possess outstanding opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments received concur with Bureau findings. One comment indicated the existence of the access road to private property in Sec. 14, T. 16S., R. 35E., M.D.M. Field validation resulted in the road's exclusion from the WSA.

CA-010-059 Tinemaha
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit includes five parcels situated along the west side of Owens Valley. All of the parcels have a common western boundary with the Inyo National Forest.

The southern parcel is bounded on the south by the Onion Valley Road, on the north by Oak Creek Road and on the east by non-public land. The adjoining inventoried Forest Service land and the parcel total less than 5,000 acres. The parcel is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Therefore, the parcel, due to lack of size, has been excluded from further wilderness consideration.

The two central parcels are separated by the Division Creek Powerhouse Road. The adjoining Forest Service land is not being considered for wilderness, so the parcels have been excluded.

The fourth parcel is bounded on the south and west by Forest Service land, on the north by the Aberdeen Road and on the east by non-public land. The adjacent RARE II Area has been recommended for wilderness.

The northernmost parcel is bounded on the south by Taboose Creek and Forest Service land, and on the north and east by non-public land. The western boundary is adjacent to the Tinemaha RARE II Area which has been recommended for wilderness.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area is 3,280 acres and includes no non-public land. A total of 4,320 acres was removed from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

These parcels include broad alluvial aprons, lava flows and the Red Mountain cinder cone. The alluvial lands support stands of big sage and other Great Basin vegetation. The lava flows are sparsely vegetated. The area is known to contain Reticulated Huckberry - a plant listed on the CNPS rare and endangered plant list.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The parcels are essentially free from signs of man's work. There are a few scattered primitive vehicle routes in these parcels. A road, however, services an Apiary Site along the western base of Red Mountain. This road has been excluded from the unit. A fenceline and vehicle route transect the unit south of Red Mountain. The fenceline did not affect the overall naturalness of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation do not exist in the parcels in this unit; however, when considered as part of the adjoining RARE II lands these opportunities are greatly enhanced.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed the potential mineral values of the unit as well as recommended width expansion of utility line corridors. These resource land use values will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. One comment mentioned the influence of outside sights and sounds which is not a wilderness inventory consideration. One comment indicated the presence of powerlines, spreading and flood channels and their associated service roads. Non-conforming improvements have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area where found. Due to the lack of recent maintenance or use, some of the developments noted in the comment had little or no impact on the overall naturalness of the unit. In this case, no changes were made. The area's potential for groundwater recharge facilities will be considered in the Study Phase.

CA-010-060 Paiute
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is generally located northeast of Independence and consists of narrow parcels of public land bordering the western edge of the Mazourka RARE II Area which has been recommended for further planning by Inyo National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The portion of the unit that meets the Wilderness Act criteria consists of 7,600 acres of totally public land. A total of 5,160 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The inventory unit occupies the western edge of the Inyo Mountains, encompassing various terrain types ranging from rugged lava flows in the northernmost parcel to the low hills and smooth alluvial fans to the south. Vegetation varies with terrain type ranging from nearly non-existent on the poorly formed soils of the lava flows to mixed shrubs and scattered annual grasses on the low hills and the fans.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several adjustments have been made to the original wilderness inventory unit due to the presence of roads and the impacts of mining activities. An improved road cuts across the southwestern corner of the public land parcel in Sec. 21, T. 12 S., R. 35 E., M.D.M. All other exclusions were the result of mining activities, the visual impacts of which include roadcuts, tunnels, shafts, slag piles, structures, and numerous vehicle routes. The mining activity is most widespread just north of Mazourka Canyon Road as well as farther north in the vicinity of Jack Black Mine in Sec. 5, T. 12 S., R. 35 E., M.D.M.

The remaining parcels of public land, after exclusions, have generally retained their primeval character and influence. Within these parcels the imprint of man's work, which includes some primitive vehicle routes and some old mining scars, is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are generally lacking in those parcels that have retained their natural character due to their restrictive size and narrow configuration. But when considered as part of the adjacent RARE II lands, the opportunities provided may become outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments stated that since the unit adjoins RARE II lands, a more site-specific determination of the boundaries of the excluded areas should be made during the Study Phase. But through intensive inventory, the pervasive impacts of the widespread man-made developments have been observed and documented, and boundaries have been drawn accordingly. Subsequently, there is no change in the Bureau findings. One comment indicated the presence of a canal and some maintained roads within the inventory unit. These developments had already been excluded from the WSA on the Draft Intensive Inventory Map. One comment addressed potential mineral values which will receive consideration in the Study Phase. A few comments supported the Bureau findings.

CA-010-062 Crater Mountain
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located just south of Big Pine, the inventory unit is bounded on the north and east by non-public land, on the south by an improved dirt road and a livestock pipeline and trough system, and on the west by Inyo National Forest and the McMurray Meadows Road. A small area of public land west of the McMurray Meadows Road adjoins an area of Forest Service land that was not inventoried for wilderness potential, but the combined size of the two areas is less than 5,000 acres and not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This 6,760 acre Wilderness Study Area consists entirely of public land. A total of 2,150 acres was removed from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is dominated by Crater Mountain, a large volcanic mountain surrounded by rough, black lava flows. The mountain rises more than 2,000 feet above the Owens Valley floor. Lack of soil development on the lava peak has greatly limited the vegetation, creating a stark contrast between the volcanic landform and its surroundings, which include the rugged High Sierra.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A few boundary adjustments have been made in order to exclude roads and areas where man's works dominate. Both the northern and southern boundaries were adjusted to exclude mining areas which contain vehicle routes, excavations, tunnels, and slag piles. Two sets of powerlines and their associated maintenance roads necessitated a boundary adjustment on the eastern edge of the unit. The western boundary has been adjusted to reflect the correct alignment of the McMurray Meadows Road.

The remainder of the unit, due to its rugged nature, has received only limited human use, and therefore, appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the screening effect of the rugged volcanic terrain, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Crater Mountain and its surrounding flows also provides an interesting and challenging environment for the enjoyment of primitive type recreation activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments agreed with Bureau findings. Several comments addressed Study Phase considerations such as width expansion of power transmission line corridors, proposed transmission line sites, and potential mineral values. These land use resource values will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. A few comments indicated the existence of spreading channels, power transmission lines, associated facilities and service roads. These non-conforming improvements were excluded from the inventory unit. One comment also indicated the influence of outside sights and sounds on the unit. Outside influences are not considered wilderness inventory criteria.

CA-010-063 Coyote Southeast
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located south of Bishop, the inventory unit consists of narrow bands of public land arrayed along the eastern border of Coyote Southeast RARE II Area which was recommended for further planning by Inyo National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This 3,211 acre Wilderness Study Area consists entirely of public land. A total of 1,060 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit occupies the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada, its topography ranging from low, granitic hills in the northern portion to low, rolling benchlands in the southern portion. The vegetation is dominated by mixed shrubs, but includes the pinyon-juniper association at higher elevations. Several creeks, originating in the Sierra Nevada, drain eastward across the unit enroute to the Owens River. The numerous canyons support various types of riparian vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made in order to exclude non-public land, roads, and other man-made developments. These man-made developments include habitations and other structures just west of the Rossi Tungsten mine and a high voltage powerline and maintenance road in the eastern portion of the northernmost parcel. Improved roads occupy both Freeman Creek and Shannon Creek Canyons. In the Warren Bench parcel, the powerline and maintenance road sever the northeastern portion, while mining scars and a network of primitive vehicle routes degrade the natural character of the southern half of the area.

The remainder of the unit, after exclusions, appears to have been effected primarily by the forces of nature. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable within these remaining parcels.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the unit's restrictive size and narrow, irregular configuration, opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking. But when considered with the adjacent Forest Service RARE II lands, the opportunities provided due to increased size and added diversity may be outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed Study Phase considerations, such as mineral values, wildlife values, and transmission line corridor expansion. These considerations will be covered in the Study Phase. One comment indicated the presence of the transmission line and spreading and flood channels in the unit. These developments had already been excluded on the WSA Draft Intensive Inventory Map.

CA-010-064 Symmes Creek
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located south of Independence and is bounded to the north by an improved road along Independence Creek, to the south by the maintained Shepherd Creek Road, to the east by nonpublic land, and to the west by Inyo National Forest and a short segment of a maintained dirt road in the southwest corner of the unit. The unit does not border any RARE II lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 10,160 acres of public land. A total Of 320 acres was removed from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landform generally consists of a broad, gently sloping, rocky alluvial fan dissected by two creeks. Vegetation displays the transition between the salt brush-bursage dominated valley floor, through the spiny hopsage-ephedra association, to the big sage-bitterbrush dominated upper slopes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A few man-made imprints were excluded from the unit. The Symmes Creek Campground and access road in the northwest corner as well as the maintained road in the southwest corner were eliminated. In addition, a drainage diversion access road in the southwest corner and a road to a flow measuring station at the northern border were removed. A few primitive vehicle routes in the vicinity of Symmes Creek are substantially unnoticeable due to some terrain variation and the insignificance of the routes in relation to the entire area. The overall natural character of the unit has been retained.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNTITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The unintruded nature of this fairly large area allows visitors to experience uncluttered spaciousness as well as freedom of unconfined movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment addressed potential mineral values and the influence of sights and sounds outside the inventory unit. Potential mineral values will be assessed during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. The influence of sights and sounds outside the unit are not wilderness inventory criteria. One comment noted the existence of spreading and flood channels and associated service roads as well as other related water facilities. Non-conforming improvements have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area where found. Because of the lack of recent maintenance or use, some of the developments stated in the comment had little or no impact on the overall naturalness of the unit. The area's potential for groundwater recharge facilities will be considered during the Study Phase.

CA-010-065 Black Canyon
(Maps 01-P and 01-O)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located east of Bishop and consists of a narrow band of public land bordering the western edge of the Black Canyon RARE II Area recommended for further planning by Inyo National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area represents 6,518 acres of public land. There are no tracts of non-public land located within the unit. A total of 2,180 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit occupies the western edge of the White Mountains, incorporating portions of the lower slopes and the upper bajada. At the southern end of the unit, the alluvium has been uplifted and dissected, adding some terrain diversity to the landscape. The vegetation is dominated by shadscale and other mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of the unit have been excluded due to degradation of the natural character resulting from man-made developments. These developments consists mostly of networks of vehicles routes on the lower portions of the bajada. In the northernmost parcel, located just east of Laws, the vehicle routes emanate from the mouths of the canyons, fanning out in westerly directions across the unit. The vehicle routes in the southernmost parcel parallel the base of the uplifted alluvium. The northern portion of the parcel located between Redding and Black Canyons contains a road to a structure on the private property, a site containing several large communications towers, and numerous primitive vehicle routes. The southern portion of the parcel immediately north of Redding Canyon Road is laced with numerous vehicle routes which branch from the main road. A communications tower also exists at the eastern edge of the area. Along the western edge of the unit, the Geiger Canal and its maintenance road and an access road to private property at Collins Warm Springs have been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area.

The remaining portions of the unit generally retain their natural character. Within these parcels, the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the restrictive size and narrow, irregular configuration of the unit, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking. But when considered as part of the adjacent RARE II area, the opportunities may be outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. One comment indicated the existence of the canal and the access road at the western edge of the unit. Upon field inspection, the canal and access road have been excluded from the WSA. One comment addressed potential mineral values in the unit. These values will be considered in the Study Phase. Several

comments stated that the unit does not meet Wilderness Act criteria due to the presence of roads and prospect pits, lack of size, and lack of opportunities for solitude. Non-conforming improvements have been excluded from the WSA, and the adjacent RARE II lands satisfy the size requirements as well as enhancing opportunities for solitude. Subsequently, no changes were made in the Bureau recommendations pertaining to this comment.

CA-010-066
(No Map)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This inventory unit was inaccurately enumerated on the Initial Inventory Map. The unit has been inventoried as a part of CA-010-065.

CA-010-068 Wheeler Ridge
(Map 01-P)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located immediately northwest of Rovana and contains approximately 3,197 acres. The unit is bounded to the west by the Inyo National Forest Wheeler Ridge RARE II Area, to the north by non-public land and a road, to the south by a road along Pine Creek, and non-public land to the east. The Forest Service has designated the RARE II area for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The two parcels of the 3,197 acre Wilderness Study Area consists of solidly blocked public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit's primary topography reflects gentle slopes that emanate from the base of the Sierra scarp. Lower portions of the sheer scarp walls are also within the unit. The landform supports a variety fo shrubs such as bitterbush, rabbitbrush and big sage. Views of the Eastern Sierra, including picturesque Mt. Tom, provide a scenic backdrop within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained much of its natural character. Man-made imprints are substantially unnoticeable. Evidence of man-made activities exist as two firebreaks that are located within portions of the unit and are currently undergoing revegetation to the extent they are unnoticeable within the firebreak corridor but readily discernible from a distance due to color contrast. In time, successional processes will revert the firebreaks to a visually harmonic blend with the surrounding environment. A telephone line traverses a portion of the unit but presents little substantially noticeable impact to the unit. An improved road was found in Sec. 13, T. 6S., R. 13E., M.D.M. This road is used to service range improvements consisting of a fenceline, water troughs, and a water pipeline. Although the road bisects the southernmost parcel, the resulting portions have a common boundary with the Wheeler Ridge RARE II Area and will thus be retained in the Wilderness Study Area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The discrete unit's lack of unconfined freedom of movement as well as limited topographic screening restricts opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. However, when considered with the adjacent RARE II area, the unit's combination of size, enhanced topographical variation, and unconfined freedom of movement contribute to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment addressed potential mineral values of the unit and the influence of sights and sounds outside the inventory unit. Land use resource values will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. The influence of sights and sounds outside the unit are not Wilderness inventory criteria.

CA-010-070 Rock Creek West
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located south of Crowley Lake and is bounded by Highway 395 and non-public land to the north, by Inyo National Forest to the south, and by non-public land and Inyo National Forest to the east and west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit totals approximately 414 acres and is entirely public land. It also adjoins the Rock Creek West and Whiskey Creek RARE II Areas which have been recommended for wilderness.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of steep, rocky and rounded hillsides trending northeast and northwest. Pinyon pine and low shrubs constitute the vegetative cover type of the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained its natural integrity having been affected primarily by the forces of nature and reflecting substantially unnoticeable man-made imprints.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's limited size, lack of topographical screening, and vegetative cover type provide few opportunities for solitude. However, when considered with the adjacent RARE II areas, the expanded size and physiographical diversity enhance opportunities for solitude and unconfined types of recreational activity.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment addressed potential transmission line corridor expansion, a Study Phase issue which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-071 Whiskey Creek
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The multiple parcel inventory unit is located west of Crowley Lake and is bounded by Inyo National Forest to the south and west, and by a powerline and non-public land to the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains three small parcels - each less than 5,000 acres. The central parcel is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It does not adjoin land that has been designated by the Forest Service as containing wilderness values.

The northernmost parcel lies adjacent to the Laurel-McGee RARE II Area. This RARE II area has been designated by the Forest Service for further planning.

The southernmost parcel adjoins the Whiskey Creek RARE II Area which has been recommended for wilderness. These parcels total 330 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of gently rolling slopes trending to the northeast. Vegetation includes mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit displays man-made imprints that have degraded its natural character. An improved road traverses the northern parcel and can be easily observed from any point in the area. An improved road, campground, and associated sanitation facilities are situated in the southern parcel. The unit's small size and limited topographic and vegetative screening make these activities easily visible from all points in the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's small size, lack of variable topography, and limited vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude. The presence of roads, a campground and associated structures dominate the landscape to the extent that their unnatural elements visually prevail from all observable points throughout the unit thereby rendering virtually non-existent outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received regarding this unit.

CA-010-072 Laurel-McGee
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This multiple parcel inventory unit is located west of Crowley Lake and is bounded by the Inyo National Forest to the south and west, and by a powerline, vehicle route, and non-public land to the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The two separate parcels in this unit each contain less than 5,000 acres. The northern parcel is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. It adjoins no Federal land recognized as having wilderness values. However, the southern parcel adjoins the Laurel-McGee RARE II Area which has been designated by the Forest Service for further planning. The Wilderness Study Area encompasses 110 acres of public land. A total of 150 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of the steep rocky base of the Sierra Scarp and supports mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit is undeveloped, retaining its primeval character and influence. It generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. An obtrusive vehicle route was found in the northern portion of the unit which necessitated a boundary adjustment. The adjusted boundary excluded the vehicle route from the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

As an isolated unit, the current size and limited topographic and vegetative screening impair opportunities for solitude. However, in conjunction with the adjacent RARE II area, the added size and diversified physiographic features substantially increase outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with the Bureau findings. One comment addressed the potential need for transmission line corridor expansion. This consideration applies to the Study Phase and therefore, will be considered through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-074 Yellow Jacket Springs
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit contains 7,760 acres and is located south of Benton and west of Hammil Valley. The unit is bounded by Red Rock Canyon Road to the south, Black Rock Mine Road to the north and west, and nonpublic land to the east. Field inventory disclosed the existence of two improved and well-maintained roads in the eastern portion of the unit as well as a powerline maintenance road in the western portion. These newly identified roads render a series of smaller units; each unit contains less than 5,000 acres and is of insufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The inventory unit consists primarily of public land with only two portions of non-public sections located within the unit.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. One comment addressed a potential future need for transmission line corridor expansion. This potential need will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-075 White Mountain
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit lies north of Bishop along much of the western edge of the White Mountains RARE II Area which has been slated by the Inyo National Forest for further planning. Other boundaries include non-public lands and Highway 6 to the west and north and Silver Creek Road, just east of Laws, to the south. The unit totals 42,200 acres in size.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists primarily of public lands with several, small, non-public inholdings scattered thoughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The entire unit is situated on a long bajada which gently slopes westward from the base of the White Mountains to the agricultural lands in the Benton, Hammil, and Chalfant Valleys. Terrain varies little along this slope, except for the slight rises of each individual alluvial fan. Vegetative variety is lacking, and the cover, which consists mostly of small, Great Basin type shrubs, is relatively sparse throughout the area. Occasionally, an intermittant creek transects the bajada.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout this linear unit. Most noticeable of the man-made features within the area are the numerous improved roads and primitive vehicle routes which traverse every alluvial fan and lead to the mouths of the canyons at the White Mountains. As many as three separate roads approach each canyon from various directions. These roads are primarily used by the ranchers and farmers in the valleys for development of water sources and the maintenance of water pipelines. Most of the roads end at the mountain/bajada interface. The steep, rugged mountain face precludes most opportunities for development. Other man-made encroachments in the unit include the water pipelines themselves and other ranching and agricultural developments, some within the private inholdings. Even a small-scale power plant is located within the unit just northeast of Hammil. Due to the lack of terrain and vegetative screening, there are very few locations within the unit from which the imprint of man's work cannot be seen.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be extremely limited in this unit due to the many encroachments located throughout which tend to confine the visitor and reduce opportunities for a quality primitive experience. Lack of terrain and vegetative variety allows the man-made features to stand out as well as providing little screening between users of the area.

Although the area adjoins the RARE II lands slated for further planning, its heavily intruded nature precludes further wilderness consideration. Its gently sloping topography presented few obstacles to development, while the adjacent RARE II lands, which occupy the steep, largely inaccessible slopes of the White Mountains, have sustained relatively little encroachment.

The artificial Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management boundary along the east side of this unit coincides in almost all cases with the natural boundary of the heavily intruded bajadas and the pristine White Mountain escarpment.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of the comments supported the Bureau findings, indicating the various roads, pipelines, and other man-made developments scattered throughout the area. Several comments stated that since the unit adjoins RARE II lands, those small portions adjacent to the Forest Service boundary that may not have been disturbed by man-made developments should be carried into the Study Phase as WSA's. But the pervasive influence of widespread man-made developments, especially in an area with this unit's particular set of environmental characteristics (i.e., sparse, low-growing vegetation and a general lack of terrain variability), has affected the entire area to the point that it does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Furthermore, the widespread encroachments severely limit opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, in those small portions of the unit that may not be physically impaired, due to the confining effect of the encroachments. Therefore, no changes were made in the Bureau findings.

CA-010-077 Benton Range
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is bounded by Inyo National Forest and a graded road leading into it on the west, Highway 120 and a maintained dirt road to the north, the improved Blind Springs Valley and Black Rock Mine Roads to the east, and a short portion of the Red Rock Canyon Road to the south. Field inventory disclosed a high-voltage powerline with a graded maintenance road which separates the unit into two parcels. The area east of the powerline does not contain 5,000 acres of roadless land, nor is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. That portion of the unit that lies west of the powerline adjoins the Benton Range RARE II Area that has been slated by the Forest Service for further planning. The powerline road forms the new eastern boundary of this adjusted unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 4,052 acre Wilderness Study Area consists totally of public land. A total of 2,600 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is located along the northern and eastern edges of the lower Benton Range, containing portions of the lower slopes and valley edges. Some of the high portions of the Benton Range display a rounded, granitic composition. Vegetation cover on the mountains is primarily pinyon pine with intermixed juniper and Great Basin shrub understory, while the valley areas are covered with mixed shrubs and some annual plants. The unit is known to contain Mono Eriogonum - a plant listed on the CNPS rare and endangered plant list.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of the unit have been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to degradation of their natural character. Man's impacts in these areas consist of maintained roads, unimproved vehicle routes, and major mining scars. A maintained road and telephone line cross the unit near its northern end and lead to a microwave repeater in the National Forest. The area just north of this road contains two quarries, each with a maintained road leading to it and large rock piles scattered throughout. In the southern end of the unit a road leads into the National Forest to the Tower Mine. The area south of this road is dominated by the Black Rock Mine, which covers a large portion of the side of a mountain. The many roadcuts, tunnels, slag piles, bulldozing scars and structures are clearly evident throughout the surrounding area. Further south, the Granite Mine, with its trenches, shaft, roadcut, and structure, occupies the top of the mountain.

Two portions of the unit have maintained their natural character. These areas, in contrast with the excluded portions of the unit, appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's imprint within these parcels is limited to a few primitive vehicle routes which are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain and vegetative screening. The adjusted eastern boundary of the northern parcel follows a ridgeline to the powerline just west of the pumice quarry in Sec. 14, T. 2 S., R. 31 E., M.D.M. The southern parcel is bounded to the north by the road to the microwave repeater and to the south by the road to the Tower Mine.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The two parcels offer only limited opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered on their own. But when considered as part of the adjacent Benton Range RARE II Area, they offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments agreed with Bureau findings. A few comments noted the existence of the powerline and improved roads in the unit. These non-conforming improvements had been field validated and subsequently removed from the unit. A few comments also addressed width expansion of powerline corridors which will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. One comment mentioned a slight misalignment of the powerline. This was corrected accordingly.

CA-010-078 Blind Spring Hill
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit contains approximately 11,360 acres and is located southeast of Benton Hot Springs. The unit is bordered by non-public land and Highway 6 to the east, non-public land to the north, Blind Springs Valley Road to the west, and Black Rock Mine Road to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists mostly of public land with small non-public inholdings representing approximately 10 percent.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit's primary topographical feature is Blind Spring Hill. Located in the northern section of the unit, it is a large flat-topped protrusion rising from the surrounding landscape and containing numerous rock outcrops as well as interior drainages. The southern portions reflect a more moderate relief with rounded hills and varied slopes. Vegetation includes pinyon pine at the summit with juniper in the upper drainages and shrubs and grasses covering the middle to lower slopes. Sagebrush can be found in the southern and eastern portion of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made imprints are substantially noticeable throughout the unit. Intrusive activities can be easily observed within the area and include obtrusive impacts such as mine excavation operations and tailings--dominant in the northern portion with scattered activity in the south, an associated network of improved roads, primitive vehicle routes, and a telephone line. A house trailer and an improved road branching into a web of unimproved vehicle routes are apparent in the unit's southern portion. The cumulative and pervasive presence of these activities degrade the natural character of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the confining nature of man's activities throughout the unit, opportunities for solitude or a primitive, unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The comments addressed the various non-conforming activities within the unit and also expressed personal feelings about wilderness.

CA-010-079 Chidago Canyon
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is bounded to the north by the maintained Red Rock Canyon Road, to the east by a graded road leading from Fish Slough to the Red Rock Petroglyphs, and to the south by an improved ranching road. The powerline road represents the current western boundary of the unit. The area west of the powerline road does not contain 5,000 acres of public land, nor is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Two roads traverse this small area: one used as access to the powerline road and the other leading to active mines.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 20,246 acres of public land. A total of 2,160 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to a lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landscape can be generally characterized as rolling tablelands with a gentle, downward slope toward the east. The western portion of the unit culminates near the top of a narrow, north-south trending ridge. Chidago Canyon deeply incises the area, running in the southeasterly direction near the southern border. The vegetation, which is uniformly distributed throughout, consists mostly of Great Basin shrubs. The area is known to contain archeological values.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally appears to have retained its primeval character and influence. Man's works, which include a few, primitive vehicle routes, are substantially unnoticeable due to the screening effect of the rolling terrain and the desert shrub cover.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude through the screening effect of its gently rolling topography. Its relatively unintruded nature provides freedom of unconfined movement, and its setting, which includes the vertical backdrop of the nearby White Mountains, is excellent for most primitive recreation activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with Bureau findings. Several comments noted the existence of the transmission line and associated service roads. These non-conforming improvements had been removed from the inventory unit. A few comments addressed considerations which will be analyzed during the Study Phase such as width expansion of utility corridors and unique wildlife values. One comment indicated the presence of mines and roads in the unit. Field validation revealed no roads meeting the Bureau definition or any mining activity that would impair the overall naturalness of the unit. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-080 Fish Slough
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is bounded on the north by a maintained road in support of livestock operations, on the east by non-public land and a maintained road along Fish Slough, on the south by an improved dirt road leading to Casa Diablo Mountain, and on the west by a graded powerline maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 19,730 acre unit consists mostly of public land with one non-public section accounting for approximately 640 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography within the unit can be characterized by a series of volcanic terraces and abrupt cliffs. Numerous canyons and drainages dissect the eastern portion of the unit. Toward the western edge, though, the topography is more gentle and rolling. Vegetation is uniformly distributed throughout the unit, consisting mostly of low shrubs with some interspersed cholla. Views to the highly scenic White Mountains to the east and the High Sierra to the west are readily obtainable throughout much of the area. The area is known to contain high archeological values.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Although several primitive vehicle routes following drainages from northwest to southeast traverse the unit, it retains an overall natural appearance due to terrain variety and the unobtrusive nature of the routes. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Terrain variety provides intimate, enclosed areas as well as the opportunity to experience spaciousness on the broad, expansive terraces. Views to the White Mountains and the High Sierra enhance the primitive recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with Bureau findings. Two comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as high wildlife values and the potential need for transmission line corridor expansion. These considerations will be weighed in the Study Phase. One comment indicated the existence of the transmission line on the western edge of the unit, stressing its negative influence on opportunities for solitude within the unit. The transmission line is outside the unit, so its influence is not an inventory consideration. One comment indicated a slight misalignment of the transmission line on the Draft Intensive Inventory Map. The alignment has been corrected accordingly.

CA-010-081 Volcanic Tableland
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular inventory unit is bordered on the northeast by a maintained dirt road that leads to Casa Diablo Mountain. To the south, non-public lands and an improved road along the Owens River form the boundary. The western border consists of a graded powerline maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 11,840 acres. A total of 760 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Although the tableland is situated on a level above the Owens Valley, topography within the unit is relatively flat. Some low, rolling hills exist within the unit, as well as occasional volcanic cliffs, but the general character is one of subdued relief with broad, tableland expanses gently sloping from northwest to southeast. Vegetation consists mostly of low shrubs with intermixed annual plants. The area provides scenic views to the east and west of both the White Mountains and the High Sierra.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The southern tip of the area has been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to the degradation of its natural character. Numerous vehicle routes traverse this small area and an improved road leads to a house in Sec. 16, T. 6 S., R. 32 E., M.D.M. The remainder of the unit has retained its primeval character and influence. Man's works, which include a few primitive vehicle routes, are substantially unnoticeable due to the slight terrain variation and their significance in relation to the area's overall size.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude within its broad, uncluttered expanses. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also present in the area. The tableland topography provides interest and challenge, and the primitive setting includes excellent views to the High Sierra and the White Mountains.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. Two comments indicated the presence of the transmission line and maintenance road, one of the comments stressing a negative influence on opportunities for solitude within the unit. The powerline and road form the western boundary of the unit, and as such, are outside the unit. Outside influences are not inventory considerations. One comment indicated a slight misalignment of the powerline as printed on the Draft Intensive Inventory Map. The alignment has been corrected accordingly. One comment addressed the potential future need for transmission line corridor expansion - a consideration that will be weighed during the Study Phase.

CA-010-082 Casa Diablo
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located in the Volcanic Tablelands northwest of Bishop and is bounded on the north by a maintained road leading to National Forest land, on the south by an improved road to Casa Diablo Mountain, National Forest land to the west, and a powerline maintenance road and non-public land to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals approximately 5,547 acres and consists entirely of public land. In addition, the unit adjoins an uninventoried roadless area of the Inyo National Forest.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains variable topography with a series of volcanic terraces in the south to rocky and rugged hills in the western and northern portions. Vegetation is evenly distributed throughout most of the unit and includes primarily low shrubs, a few cholla, and juniper in upland areas. Scenic and contrasting views of the Eastern Sierra and the White Mountains are observable from within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has largely retained its natural state having been affected primarily by the forces of nature with man-made imprints being substantially unnoticeable. An unimproved vehicle route is located in the unit but imparts minimal impact to the overall naturalness of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's overall primeval features, size, and variable topography combine together to provide outstanding oppprtunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The unit's natural character and spaciousness impart a sense of isolation and unconfined freedom of movement to area visitors.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported Bureau findings. Several comments noted the existence of the powerline and its associated maintenance road. These have been removed from the inventory unit. A few comments also addressed criteria which will be evaluated during the Study Phase such as width expansion of powerline corridors and unique wildlife values. One comment indicated a slight misalignment of the powerline. This was corrected accordingly.

CA-010-083 Owens River Gorge
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located northwest of Bishop and is bounded on the north by the improved road to Casa Diablo Mountain, non-public land to the south, non-public and National Forest Service land to the west, and a powerline road to the east. The unit totals 6,120 acres of public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists mostly of public land with a small portion of non-public land representing approximately 5 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Consisting of the southwestern portion of the Volcanic Tablelands, the unit contains essentially level to moderate terrain with some gently rolling hills in the northern portion. Vegetation is typical of the tableland ecosystem and consists of dense shrubs including spiny hopsage and saltbush. The Sierra Nevada Range provides a scenic backdrop throughout the unit but is detracted by foreground elements such as Highway 395 and a large water pipeline.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally appears to have been affected by natural forces with the imprint of man's work within the unit substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The lack of topographic and vegetative screening as well as the narrow and linear configuration of the unit limit opportunities for attaining solitude or primitive types of recreation. In addition, the nature of the boundaries restricts opportunities for unconfined freedom of movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments were received regarding this inventory unit. Two comments noted the existence of the transmission line and its associated maintenance road. These non-conforming improvements were removed from the unit. One of these comments also mentioned considerations which will be evaluated during the Study Phase such as width expansion of utility corridors. An additional comment noted a slight misalignment of the powerline. This was corrected accordingly. One comment addressed the unit's outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. However, a variety of factors limit opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation; the lack of topographic and vegetative screening and the unit's linear and narrow configuration as well as the nature of the boundaries restrict potential opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Furthermore, only a few visitors to the area could be accommodated without impairing their opportunities to attain isolation. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-084 Petroglyphs
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This narrow strip of public land extends northwest from Fish Slough to the transmission line and maintenance road. It is bounded on the north and south by roads developed and maintained in support of livestock operations in the area. Non-public land and a graded road form the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists of 5,280 acres of public land. During the Initial Inventory, a misalignment of the transmission line, which forms the western boundary, resulted in an inaccurate calculation of this unit's size. The correct alignment increased the size of the unit so that it now meets the size requirements. For this reason, the unit is now being considered in the Intensive Inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This narrow unit is generally characterized by volcanic tablelands sloping downward in an easterly direction. Vegetation is uniformly distributed throughout, consisting mostly of Great Basin shrubs. This unit is known to contain archeological values.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Overall, the unit has retained its natural character. Man's works, which include a few branching jeep trails, are substantially unnoticeable due to their relatively unobtrusive nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited in this unit due to its narrow, linear shape, lack of vegetative screening, and limited terrain diversity. Few visitors could be accommodated within the narrow confines of this unit without impairing opportunities for solitude and a quality primitive recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment pointed out that the realignment of the western boundary resulted in an area greater than 5,000 acres. The unit has subsequently been placed in the Intensive Inventory. One comment questioned the validity of the north and south boundary roads, while other comments, which were authored by the livestock operators themselves, stressed the important role these roads play in relation to their livestock operations. Two comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as high wildlife values and a potential future need for transmission line corridor expansion. These concerns will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. One comment noted the existence of the powerline on the western boundary and stressed its negative effect on the naturalness of the unit and on opportunities for solitude. But outside influences are not considered in the inventory.

CA-010-085 Chalfant Valley West
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow unit contains approximately 12,440 acres of land. It is bounded on the east by Highway 6 and non-public land, to the north by a portion of Red Rock Canyon Road, to the south by non-public land and a maintained dirt road, and to the west by non-public land and a graded road leading north to the Red Canyon petroglyph site.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists primarily of public lands although it contains four non-public inholdings which account for approximately 15 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area can be characterized generally as a low, rounded ridge situated between Chalfant and Lower Hammil Valley to the east and the Fish Slough lowlands to the west. The area's volcanic origin is occasionally evident along the western edge of the unit in the form of uplifted blocks of tuff. Vegetation is relatively sparse, consisting mostly of small shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit contains numerous man-made developments which detract from its natural character. These developments include a telephone line which runs north-south along the eastern edge of the unit, a maintained telephone line road which transects the unit between Chalfant Valley and Fish Slough, and many unimproved vehicle routes which become even more numerous toward the southern end of the area. Lack of vegetative and topographic screening allow the features to be more noticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited within the unit due to its long, narrow, and irregular shape, its lack of vegetative and topographic screening, and the numerous man-made features. Few visitors could be accommodated within the area without reducing opportunities for solitude, and freedom of unconfined movement would be difficult to attain.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment addressed Study Phase criteria pertaining to unique wildlife values.

CA-010-088 Excelsior
(Maps 01-M and 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit consists of several parcels of public land arrayed along the western and southern edges of Inyo National Forest north of Benton. In the northernmost parcel, Highway 167 was erroneously omitted from the Initial Inventory Map. The highway and a 60 KV transmission line bisect the parcel, leaving the northern portion with less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land and of insufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. In the parcel near Adobe Lake, the southern boundary road was improperly aligned. The correct alignment appears on the current map. The area south of the realigned road has been excluded due to lack of wilderness values. Furthermore, field inventory disclosed the presence of a high-voltage powerline and maintenance road in the northeast corner of the area. The powerline divides the area into two separate parcels, each retaining a common boundary with Forest Service RARE II lands. The powerline also severs the southernmost tip of the parcel, rendering it of insufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The public lands within this Wilderness Study Area total 12,400 acres. A total of 6,120 acres have been removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit mostly occupies the extreme mountain edges, containing portions of both the lower slopes and surrounding valleys. Vegetation consists of scattered pinyon pine on the slopes and mixed shrubs on the valley floor. In the upper Benton Valley parcel, agricultural and grazing developments on the nonpublic lands dominate much of the scenery.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Field inventory revealed several ranch-related roads and developments throughout the upper Benton Valley parcel. These man-made features include two fenceline maintenance

roads, a water trough/pipeline system, an access road to an old way station, and a road used as access from the main ranch, which is on nonpublic land, to a fenced grazing area along the California-Nevada border. In addition, several unimproved vehicle routes branch from the maintained roads and traverse much of the parcel. These vehicle routes do not penetrate the Forest Service RARE II lands, for the most part, since the Forest Service boundary generally follows the base of the steep hills. As a result of the many developments in this parcel, man's works are substantially noticeable and the area does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Immediately south of Highway 167, in Sec. 4 and 9, T. 3N., R. 29E., M.D.M., a high-voltage powerline and service roads traverse diagonally across the northeast corner of the parcel, thereby severing a small portion of the unit.

The remaining parcels in this unit have generally retained their primeval character and influence. Man's works, which include only a few, scattered, primitive vehicle routes, have little influence on the overall naturalness of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides only limited opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation due to the restricted size of most of the parcels. Except in the northernmost parcel, freedom of unconfined movement would be difficult to attain. But considered as part of the adjacent Forest Service lands that have been proposed for wilderness, the unit would provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as a result of increased size, terrain and vegetative diversity.

Although the Forest Service lands immediately adjacent to the northernmost parcel have been designated as non-wilderness, the parcel stands on its own in terms of its size, conformity, and diversity of vegetation and terrain.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments supported the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed Study Phase considerations, such as mineral values, geothermal potential, and future needs for powerline corridor expansion. These concerns will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. One comment mentioned the existence of the powerline in Sec. 4 and 9, T. 3N., R. 29E., M.D.M., which has subsequently been excluded from the WSA. Another comment addressed a misalignment of the powerline as drawn in the more southern parcels of the unit. The alignment has been corrected accordingly. Two comments stated that portions of the unit that were excluded are adjacent to RARE II lands: one immediately west of Deep Wells and the other, the northeeast corner of the parcel north of Highway 167. Coordination with Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests verified that the immediately adjacent Forest Service lands are not under consideration for wilderness. Two comments addressed outside influences, such as powerlines, ranches, and roads, which are not applicable to the inventory. One comment suggested a re-evaluation of the Benton Valley parcel impacts, but intensive inventory revealed that the widespread impacts degrade the natural character of the unit to the point that it no longer appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

CA-010-090 Granite Mountains
(Maps 01-M and 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located east of Mono Lake, this unit is bounded by National Forest lands, non-public holdings, and Highway 120 to the south; Forest Service lands, a windmill access road, and a graded dirt road between Highway 120 and Highway 167 to the east; a ranching road leading to Warm Springs to the north; and the road paralleling Mono Lake, non-public land, and an improved stock tank and water pipeline road to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 52,781 acres of public land. A total of 5,660 acres was removed from the unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography in this large unit ranges from rugged, granitic mountains to rolling hills and small, interior valleys. The upper elevations are forested with pinyon pine and juniper, while on the lower hills and in the valleys, sagebrush and other mixed shrubs predominate. Near the western end of the unit, Mono Lake dominates much of the scenery. Of some historical value, the Bodie-Mono Mills Railroad bed crosses the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Field inventory revealed a stock tank maintenance road leading into the unit from the south. This road originates at Big Sand Flat and proceeds north servicing various livestock developments such as water tanks, troughs, and pipelines. The road also intersects with McPherson Grade resulting network of roads servicing additional livestock developments in the Indian Spring Area. The road ultimately proceeds south from Indian Spring to a water tank in Sec. 23, T. 1N., R. 28E., M.D.M. The road departs the unit in Sec. 25, T. 1N., R. 28E., M.D.M. The portion of the unit severed by the road was removed from further study due to lack of size and the existence of roads and vehicle routes to livestock developments. Minor exclusions were also made in the Cowtrack Mountain area. These consisted of a road to a well, water tank and spring in Secs. 1 and 12, T. 1N., R. 28E., M.D.M. and Secs. 6 and 7, T. 1N., R. 29 E., M.D.M. A road to a windmill exists in Sec. 2, T. 2N., R. 28E., M.D.M. This road has been excluded from the inventory unit. East of Granite Mountain, several primitive vehicle routes enter the unit. Due to terrain diversity and the unobtrusive nature of these routes (some are even revegetating), they have little influence on the natural character of the area. The remainder of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain and vegetative screening and the relative lack of impacts.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Topographic and vegetative screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude within this large unit. Visitors have the opportunity to experience the intimacy of enclosed areas in the canyons as well as the spaciousness of the open valley areas. Opportunities also exist for a high quality primitive recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. Several comments also addressed the existence of roads and various livestock developments throughout the unit. Additional field work verified the existence of non-conforming improvements which were subsequently removed from the inventory unit. A few additional comments addressed considerations to be analyzed during the Study Phase such as potential mineral values and geothermal resources. One comment noted the lack of access to private land which is not an inventory consideration.

CA-010-091A Log Cabin - Saddlebag (Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit consists of a small block of public land located north of Lee Vining which is bounded to the west and south by Forest Service land, to the north by non-public land, and to the east by Highway 395 and non-public land. This unit was separated from Initial Inventory Unit CA-010-091 as a result of its location adjacent to the Log Cabin-Saddlebag RARE II Area which has been recommended for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 520 acre Wilderness Study Area consists entirely of public land. A total of 150 acres of public land were removed from further wilderness consideration due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain varies within the unit from the broad, sloping lowlands near Mono Lake to steep, rounded hills at the western edge. Vegetation grades from big sage dominated lowlands to pinyon pine and juniper at the higher elevations. Riparian vegetation occupies the two major drainages which cross the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The eastern boundary of the unit has been adjusted to exclude areas that have been impacted by numerous vehicle routes and several surface disturbances. The remainder of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit by itself offers only limited opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation within its narrow confines. But when considered as part of the adjacent RARE II area, the opportunities provided would become outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with Bureau findings. Two comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as geothermal potential and the future need for transmission line

corridor expansion, which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-091B Paoha Island
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit consists of the public lands on Paoha Island, located on Mono Lake. The unit has been placed in the Intensive Inventory in response to public comments received on the Initial Inventory, which demonstrated that the stated lack of wilderness values was not "clear and obvious".

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The public land on Paoha Island totals 760 acres. The Draft Intensive Inventory Map portrayed this unit's land status inaccurately. Almost the entire southern half of the island is in non-public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Paoha Island displays some landform diversity with a small northern portion revealing a volcanic orgin while the remainder of the island consists of light colored, uplifted lakebed. Overall, the island has a slightly rounded landform with interspersed drainages. Small enclaves of shrubs are scattered throughout the small, sparsely vegetated island.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The public lands have generally retained their natural character, although several old structures and other remnants of an abandoned goat ranch remain in evidence in the non-public portion of the island. Lack of federal jurisdiction over the non-public lands could hamper any efforts to maintain the island's overall natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Although an extremely limited number of visitors could experience solitude, the island, as a whole, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Due to the limited screening provided by the rounded terrain and scant vegetation, visitors on this small island would find it difficult to attain seclusion from others. The island also does not provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities to experience freedom of unconfined movement are extremely limited due to the restrictive size and nature of the island. These opportunities are even further restricted when one considers only the public portion of the island, since non-public lands are not included under the inventory.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All comments regarding this island stated that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Most of the comments were based on the concept that the island is surrounded by a large expanse of water which is roadless, and should therefore be considered as part of the unit when assessing wilderness values. The first step in the Bureau Wilderness Program is to inventory the public lands to assess wilderness character according to the criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act, in defining wilderness, states that wilderness is "an area of undeveloped Federal land (emphasis added) retaining its primeval character and influence . . ." Since Mono Lake itself is not Federal land, it was not inventoried for potential wilderness values. Paoha Island has been inventoried as a discrete public land parcel, not as a broad physiographic expanse that incorporates the Mono Basin. As such, it does not possess wilderness characteristics.

CA-010-092 Walford Springs
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located northeast of Mono Lake, the unit is bounded to the north by Highway 167 and a 60 KV transmission line, to the south by a ranching road to Warm Springs, to the east by the improved road to Inyo National Forest, and to the west by Mono Lake and non-public land. The field inventory process revealed the existence of an access road from Highway 167 to a gauging station at Warm Springs. The existence and present utilization of this road necessitated a boundary adjustment. The western boundary is currently situated along this road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area incorporates 13,200 acres of public land. A total of 5,200 acres were removed from further wilderness consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit includes the eastern portion of Mono Valley. Topography consists of mostly flat to gently sloping terrain. Vegetative cover consists of low, dense shrubs including big sage, saltbrush, and annual grasses. A small portion of the unit near Highway 167 contains juniper which serves to screen the highway. Scenic views of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and Inyo National Forest can be observed from within the unit. The remnants of the historic Bodie-Mono Mills Railroad bed are evident at the western end of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained its natural character generally displaying substantially unnoticeable imprints of man-related activities. A few primitive vehicle routes and fencelines traverse the unit but provide minimal visual impact.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The broad expanse of the unit in association with the few man-made imprints throughout the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreational activities. In addition, these factors impart a heightened sense of isolation thereby providing extensive opportunities for freedom of unconfined movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as geothermal potential and future transmission line corridor expansion needs. These factors will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. One comment indicated the existence of a fenceline and road traversing the unit from north to south. The fenceline was noted, but the associated road appears to have been utilized solely for the fenceline construction and is no longer receiving maintenance. The fenceline has little effect on the natural character of the unit. One comment stated that the old railroad grade impairs the natural character of the unit, but it has little effect on the natural character and is of historical interest.

CA-010-094 Morman Meadow
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located north of Lee Vining, the unit is bounded to the north by the road to Bodie, to the east by the maintained Bridgeport Canyon Road, to the south by a graded dirt road, and to the west by Highway 395. The western boundary has been adjusted for reasons explained below.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 7,280 acres. A total of 7,320 acres was eliminated from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit encompasses an area of steep, but rounded, hills uniformly vegetated with sagebrush and associated mixed shrubs. Some annual grasses dominate the "meadow" areas while quaking aspen occupy many of the drainages. Pinyon Pine and juniper dot many of the higher slopes and hilltops, adding color as well as vegetative variety to the scenery.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western boundary has been adjusted in order to exclude areas where man's impacts have degraded the natural character. Numerous maintained roads enter the unit from the south leading to structures and mining areas. A habitation is located at the head of Rancheria Gulch, while excavations, slag piles, and reservoirs dominate the Sinnamon Cut and Bacon Gulch areas. Near Conway Summit a road enters the unit and forks, leading southward to a radio relay station and northward to a mining area. Another road enters the unit from the north and leads to the Little Bodie Mine. Primitive vehicle routes lace the entire excluded area, some leading to abandoned mine sites where excavation and slag piles remain in evidence. A telephone line paralleling Highway 395 also traverses the unit.

The southern boundary of the unit has also been adjusted inward to exclude a pole line and its associated maintenance road.

The remainder of the unit generally retains its primeval character and influence. Man's works, which include only a few, widely separated unimproved vehicle routes, are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain variety.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

That portion of the unit that has retained its natural character provides outstanding opportunities for solitude within its many enclosed canyons and small interior valleys. Topographic and vegetative screening allow visitors to experience primitive recreation activities out of the sights and sounds of others. Most primitive recreation activities would be well accommodated within the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed considerations which will be evaluated during the Study Phase. These considerations include potential mineral resources of the unit, width expansion of utility line corridors, the unit's potential for geothermal development. Several comments supported Bureau findings. A few comments noted the existence of roads, mines, and other substantially noticeable man-made imprints. Non-conforming improvements, where found, were removed from the unit. Additional comments indicated the existence of private land in the unit which is not wilderness inventory criteria. One comment indicated that several sections be reincluded into the Wilderness Study Area. These sections, however, contain livestock developments, associated roads, and primitive vehicle routes which serve to impair the natural character of the immediate landscape. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-095 Mt. Biedeman
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located southeast of Bridgeport. It is bounded by the Bridgeport Canyon Road to the west, non-public land to the south, and the road to Bodie State Historic Park to the north. To the east, it is bounded by the Cottonwood Canyon Road, an adjacent 60 KV powerline and service road, and the mining area near Sugarloaf Mountain.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains 12,420 acres of public land. A total of 200 acres have been removed from the unit due to unnatural features.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topographical features within the unit are dominated by steep, rocky and rounded hills with summit elevations ranging from approximately 8,000 to 9,022 feet. Vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper associations in upland communities with a dense understory of shrubs, including big sage, scattered throughout. Several drainages and springs are located within the unit. Scenic and picturesque vistas of Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra can be observed from within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has generally retained its primeval character and influence having been affected primarily by natural forces with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. A few, unimproved vehicle routes and some fencelines traverse the unit but are screened by the varied topography. The mining area and associated roads near Sugarloaf Mountain display the greatest obtrusive impact within the unit as well as impairing the natural character of the immediate vicinity. This mining area has been omitted from the Wilderness Study Area. Immediately north of this mining area, a short road leads west from Cottonwood Canyon Road to a spring and mining claims. This road has also been excluded from the WSA.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The rugged hills, scenic quality, and natural character of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Size and topographical diversity provide ample opportunities to attain unconfined freedom of movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. Several comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as mineral and geothermal potential and future expansion of transmission line corridors. These factors will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. One comment indicated the road to the spring and mining claims in the northeast corner of the unit. Upon field inspection, the road and claim area was excluded from the WSA.

CA-010-096 Sugar Loaf
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit, which is located southeast of Bridgeport, is bounded by Cottonwood Canyon Road, Bodie State Historic Park, and non-public land to the west, by the California-Nevada State Line, Bodie Road, and non-public land to the north and northeast, and by a ranch road and non-public land to the south and southeast.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 21,040 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is varied and consists of a small portion of the gently sloping Mono Valley as well as steep and rocky hills with numerous interior drainages. Summit elevations reach 9,300 feet. Pinyon-juniper associations characterize the vegetative cover in the eastern portion; the remainder of the unit consists mostly of big sage and bitterbrush. Aspen stands are located within riparian areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit displays substantially noticeable evidence of man-made imprints. Impairing activities generally dominate the landscape and include mining operations such as surface excavations, prospects, and mine tailings as well as an association of interconnected vehicle routes that radiate to extensive sections of the unit. Mining activity is most prevalent in the northwest portion whereas the network of vehicle routes branch from the southwest to the northeast portion. A 60 KV transmission line and service road also traverse the unit. The combination of these impacts subdues aesthetic and scenic opportunities thus impairing the unit's natural integrity.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The various encroachments upon the area limit freedom of unconfined movement and provide a constant reminder of man's presence to the visitor. Therefore, the area lacks opportunities for both solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreational activity.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments indicate the presence of mining, grazing developments, roads, and a transmission line in the unit. These features were noted through field inventory. A few comments address Study Phase elements, such as mineral and geothermal potential, which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. Two comments state that the area possesses wilderness characteristics. But field inspection revealed that the influence of the widespread unnatural features degrades the natural character to the point that the unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-097 Poleline
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located southeast of Bridgeport and totals approximately 7,040 acres. It is bounded by Highway 167 and a ranch road to the south, non-public land and a ranch road to the west, and the road to Highway 167 to the east and north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is mostly public land with approximately 5 percent representing non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains a portion of Mono Valley and is characterized by a gently sloping expanse of low sagebrush, sand hummocks, and several enclaves of juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man-made activities remaining substantially unnoticeable. Field inventory inspection revealed the existence of an improved road in the northern apex of the tract.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude and for an unconfined type of recreation are limited due to the linear and narrow nature of the unit. The maximum width of the unit measures approximately two miles and when combined with the gentle topography and the relative lack of vegetative screening, few visitors could be accomodated without impairing their opportunities to achieve solitude or a quality primitive recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments pertained to study phase considerations and man-made imprints of the unit. However, the unit has been removed from the Wilderness Review Process precluding further analysis of these comments. One comment addressed the unit's potential to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude are limited, though, due to a variety of factors. The unit's narrow and linear shape and its lack of topographical and vegetative screening would accommodate only a few visitors without limiting their opportunities to achieve isolation or unconfined freedom of movement. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-099 Bodie Mountains
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located south and east of Bridgeport and is bounded by Aurora Canyon Road and non-public land to the north, a fence line and maintenance road to the east, non-public land and the road to Bodie State Historic Park to the south, and non-public land and Highway 395 to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area encompasses 23,360 acres of public land. A total of 6,280 acres have been removed from further consideration due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains a sizeable portion of the Bodie Hills with topography varying from rolling to steep and rocky hillsides. Hilltop elevations range from approximately 7,500 to 10,000 feet. A few steep canyons, interior drainages, and meadows intersperse the unit. Vegetation is variable within the unit. Dominant throughout is grassland and various shrubs including black sage and bitterbush. Pinyon-juniper stands are prevalent throughout the west side and in scattered southern portions. Riparian corridors support dense stands of aspen. The unit's combination of natural features provides numerous scenic and picturesque panoramas. Of geologic interest is the current theory that Big Alkali represents the remnants of a volcanic caldera.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several boundary adjustments have occurred as a result of man-made impacts that impair wilderness values. The impacts that were found consisted of mining scars along the Aurora Canyon Road, a material site one mile east of Highway 395 along the Bodie Road, and additional mining activity and an associated road in Cinnabar Canyon. A road in support of livestock operations branches northward from the Cinnabar Canyon Road and leads to the spring sites in Big Alkali. Another road branches north from Mormon Ranch on Bodie Road and leads to the warm spring in Sec. 16, T. 4N., R. 26E., M.D.M. These roads and activities have been excluded from the WSA. Two roads, which are also utilized in support of livestock operations, have resulted in an exclusion on the eastern edge of the unit. One of the maintained roads leads northwest from a point southwest of Murphy Spring, eventually intersecting the Aurora Canyon Road. This road services developed springs, which include stock tanks, water troughs, and stock ponds. The other road branches northeastward from the previously mentioned road at a point in Sec. 10, T. 4N., R. 26E., M.D.M. It intersects with the eastern boundary road and continues to a spring site and eventually to the Bodie-Masonic Road. These two roads sever and divide the eastern portion of the unit, leaving the severed portions with less than 5,000 acres of public land and not of sufficient size for practical management as wilderness.

The remainder of the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The imprints of man's work, which includes several non-maintained vehicle routes and an abandoned wood-pole powerline, is substantially unnoticeable. These features unobtrusively blend in with the unit's extensive range, topography and vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's blend of physiographic variation, vegetative screening, and extensive size provides the visitor with outstanding opportunities for solitude. The primeval influence of the unit's natural character further provides visitors with outstanding opportunities to participate in primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. A few comments addressed Study Phase factors, such as mineral and geothermal potential, which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process. One comment indicated the presence of the two roads in the eastern portion of the unit which resulted in the exclusion. The comment emphasized that the roads were maintained and utilized regularly in support of livestock operations. Field inspection validated the presence of the developed spring sites and other improvements along the roads, and boundary adjustments were made accordingly. Two comments indicated the presence of mining activity, fencelines, private property, and other features within the unit. Non-conforming improvements were excluded from the WSA where appropriate.

CA-010-100 Bodie
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is located east of Bridgeport and is bounded to the north by non-public land and a graded road leading into Toiyabe National Forest; to the west by non-public land and Bodie-Masonic Road; to the south by non-public land, the graded Bodie Truck Trail, and a 60 KV transmission line with an associated service road; and to the east by Toiyabe National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area consists of 15,455 acres of public land. A total of 45 acres was removed from the unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains a portion of the Bodie Hills. Rocky, rounded hills dominate the unit and range from gentle to steep slopes with hilltop elevations varying from 8,200 to 9,200 feet. Several creeks traverse the area. Vegetative cover throughout the unit consists primarily of low shrubs, although numerous groves of aspen flourish along the drainages, and the pinyon-juniper association occupies many of the upland slopes and canyon walls.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Two boundary adjustments have been made in order to exclude man-made imprints. The Paramount Mine, with its large bulldozing scars and abandoned structures, occupies the side of a hill in the northeastern portion of the unit. The disturbed site, along with its access route from the Bodie-Masonic Road, has been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to degradation of its natural character. To the south, a short water pipeline access route leading to the spring in lower Milk Ranch Canyon has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. A stock water tank located in Sec. 6, T. 4N., R. 27E., M.D.M. and a road in support of livestock operations in the eastern portion of the Wilderness Study Area were also excluded.

The remainder of the unit generally appears to have retained its primeval character and influence, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Several unimproved vehicle routes penetrate this large area, and a few wildlife habitat improvement projects (small fenced exclosures) occupy its western edge. But these man-made features have little effect on the overall naturalness of the unit due to the screening effect of the varied terrain and vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Its extensive size, variable terrain and diversity of vegetation combine to create areas of seclusion as well as excellent settings for high quality primitive recreation experiences.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments addressed the unit's resource values. These include potential rockhounding values, width expansion of utility line corridors, geothermal and mineral potential. These resource values will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. Numerous comments concurred with Bureau findings. Additional comments disagreed with the findings indicating the existence of unnatural features such as roads, various livestock developments, mining activity, and structures. All non-conforming improvements, where found, were removed from the Wilderness Study Area. One comment addressed the existence of private property which is not a wilderness inventory criterion.

CA-010-102 Masonic Mountains
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located east of Bridgeport and is bordered by Highway 182 to the west, by Toiyabe National Forest and an associated road to the north, by Aurora Canyon Road and non-public land to the south, and by the Bodie-Masonic Road to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 6,600 acres. A total of 4,480 acres was removed from the inventory unit due to lack of wilderness values.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is characterized by portions of the Bodie Hills as well as gentle to moderately rolling hills that slope toward Bridgeport Valley. Hilltop elevations range from approximately 8,400 to 9,000 feet. The unit supports vegetation such as sagebrush, pinyon pine, juniper stands, shrubs and annual grasses. The rock outcrops in the Rock Springs Canyon area provide picturesque and striking contrasts within the immediate area. In addition, panoramic views of the Eastern Sierra can be observed from within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Rock Spring Canyon Road is used to maintain several spring development sites in the Logan Springs Area. The road receives periodic maintenance and also serves as a cattle drive route for a nearby rancher. The road severs the unit and results in a Wilderness Study Area boundary alignment to the Rock Springs Canyon Road. The area south of Rock Springs Canyon Road has been excluded for lack of size. An additional road in support of livestock operations is located in the excluded area. The remainder of the unit reflects a primeval environment that generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. A few vehicle routes traverse the unit but show no signs of formal maintenance or improvement. The diverse topography and vegetation conceal the routes so that little visual impact is perceived in the immediate area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's varied physiography, ample vegetation and considerable size blend together and result in producing outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation. Furthermore, the lack of man-made features heightens the sense of isolation and natural confinement within the spaciousness of the unit.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments concurred with Bureau findings. Two comments addressed the use and quality of the Rock Springs Canyon Road which has been subsequently removed from the inventory unit. One comment indicated the geothermal potential of the unit. This resource value will be evaluated during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process. One comment indicated the existence of private property which is not a wilderness inventory criterion.

CA-010-103 Sweetwater
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is situated north of Bridgeport and is bounded by Toiyabe National Forest and non-public land to the north and west, by the Bridgeport Reservoir and non-public land to the south, and by the Bridgeport Reservoir to the east. The unit totals 960 acres and is adjacent to the Sweetwater RARE II Area which has been designated for further planning by the Forest Service.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 960 acre Wilderness Study Area is totally public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains a small segment of the northernmost section of the Bridgeport Valley. Topography can be primarily characterized as a gently rising slope from the Bridgeport Reservoir. Vegetation consists of various low shrubs and annual grasses. Scenic vistas of the Eastern Sierra can be observed from within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by natural forces with the imprint of man's work remaining substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The lack of topographical diversity and vegetative screening as well as size limitations restrict opportunities to achieve solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. In conjunction with RARE II land, the added size, diverse topography and vegetation combine together to provide a greater natural variation thus extensively increasing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments supported the Bureau findings. One comment stressed the non-wilderness recreation potential of the unit in conjunction with the reservoir. This recreational value will receive consideration during the Study Phase under the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-104 Long
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This multiple parcel unit is bounded to the north by Toiyabe National Forest and to the south by non-public land and a maintained road. The unit totals 3,270 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The unit adjoins the Long RARE II Area which has been designated as non-wilderness by the Forest Service.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments indicated that the unit adjoins the Long RARE II Area and should therefore be retained for Wilderness Study. But the Forest Service has designated their adjoining lands as non-wilderness. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings. A large number of comments stated that the unit does not qualify for wilderness designation due to unnatural features and the popularity of the area for rockhounding. An assessment of the natural character was not necessary, since the unit failed to meet the size requirements. Rockhounding, although compatible with wilderness management if considered non-impairing, is not an inventory consideration. One comment addressed mineral values, which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-105 Slinkard
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit, which is located immediately south of Monitor Pass, is generally bounded to the north and south by Toiyabe National Forest lands and to the east and west by non-public lands. A portion of the National Forest land along the southern boundary has been proposed for wilderness designation by the Forest Service.

The two detached portions of this unit, as it appeared on the Draft Intensive Inventory Map, have been inventoried as separate units. The portion located east of Highway 89 has been inventoried as CA-010-105A, while the small parcel located south of Coleville has been inventoried as CA-010-105B.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit consists almost entirely of public land, containing only one 40-acre non-public parcel. That portion of the unit lying west of Mono-Alpine County line is administered by the Nevada Office of the Bureau of Land Management. The decision regarding the status of this inventory unit has been deferred pending field inventory completion of the adjoining roadless lands managed by the Nevada State Office.

CA-010-105A Topaz Lake
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, which is located immediately west of Topaz Lake, is bounded on the north by the California-Nevada border, on the east by Highway 395 and non-public land, on the south by Highway 89 and non-public land, and on the west by Toiyabe National Forest. It was originally inventoried as part of CA-010-105, but its non-contiguous nature, due to the Highway 89 separation, has resulted in its being inventoried as a separate unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit encompasses 2,360 acres. It is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and it does not adjoin any Federal land that has been identified as having wilderness values. It has, therefore, been excluded from further wilderness consideration.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Since this unit was originally inventoried as part of CA-010-105, the public comments received pertained to the combined unit. Most of the comments supported the Bureau findings, while one comment addressed mineral values which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-105B Carson Iceberg
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit, which is located south of Coleville, is bordered to the north by the well maintained Golden Gate Road, to the east by non-public land, and to the west and south by Toiyabe National Forest. It was originally inventoried as part of CA-010-105, but has been separated due to its detached nature.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This 1,040 acre unit consists entirely of public land. It does not contain 5,000 acres of public land, but it adjoins the Carson Iceberg RARE II Area, which has been recommended for wilderness status.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This parcel consists of a small portion of the steep, eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. Vegetation is dominated by the pinyon-juniper association, although quaking aspen line the drainages. Vegetation becomes more sparse on the lower portions of the slopes, consisting mostly of sagebrush and associated plants.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally retains its primeval character and influence, with the imprint of man's work, which includes a few primitive vehicle routes, being substantially unnoticeable. It appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to its limited size, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. But the adjacent RARE II lands, with their added size and diversity, enhance the opportunities to the point that they would be considered outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PULBIC COMMENTS

Since this unit was originally inventoried as part of CA-010-105, the public comments received pertained to the entire unit. Most comments supported the Bureau findings, while one comment addressed mineral values which will receive consideration in the Study Phase.

CA-010-106 Coleville
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located just south of Topaz Lake, the unit is bordered on the north by Highway 89, on the south by Toiyabe National Forest, and on the east and west by non-public lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists of 5,720 acres of solidly blocked public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit encompasses a narrow, north-south trending ridge characterized by steep, rugged slopes. With peaks approaching elevations of 8,000 feet, the ridge rises abruptly above the adjacent valley floors, although Slinkard Valley to the west is a thousand feet higher in elevation than Antelope Valley to the east. Vegetation consists primarily of the pinyon-juniper association with scattered stands of yellow pine at higher elevations and quaking aspen in the drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Aside from some mining activity and minor developments along the eastern edge, the unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The unit retains its primeval character and influence.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit occupies a narrow ridge, averaging less than two miles in width. The steep slopes overlook two valleys containing improved roads, habitations, and other developments. These steeply sloping ridgesides limit opportunities for primitive types of recreation, while the narrow, linear shape of the unit, combined with its ridgelike character and limited size, restricts freedom of movement and limits opportunities for solitude for more than a few visitors. Opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation within the narrow confines of a unit of this nature would not be outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments stated that the unit should be retained for further wilderness study because it was excluded on the basis of outside influences, which are not inventory considerations. However, a combination of factors resulted in this unit's exclusion from further wilderness consideration, including its narrow configuration, limited size, and topographic character. Disregarding the outside influences, a unit of this nature does not provide outstanding opportunites for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Therefore, there have been no changes made in the findings.

One comment addressed potential mineral values which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

CA-010-108 Machesna Mountain
(Map 01-O)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Three parcels in the unit adjoin the Machesna Mountain RARE II Area which has been designated by the Forest Service for further planning. The easternmost parcel does not adjoin Federal land with wilderness characteristics; it is less than 5,000 acres and not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. This parcel has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area totals 720 acres and is entirely public land. A total of 80 acres has been removed from the inventory unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Wilderness Study Area consists of steep sloping hillside terrain supporting a vegetative cover type of low shrubs and annual grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has retained its primeval character and influence. It generally appears to have been affected primarily by natural forces with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. A primitive vehicle route traverses the unit in Sec. 11, T. 31 S., R. 17 E., M.D.M. but imparts minimal visual impact to the immediate area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

As a discrete unit, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are limited. However, in conjunction with the RARE II area, the unit's added size, enhanced topographical diversity and vegetative screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments concurred with Bureau findings. One comment recommended the excluded portion be reincluded into the Wilderness Study Area. However, the parcel does not adjoin any Federal land with wilderness characteristics and it is less than 5,000 acres and not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Subsequently, no changes were made in the findings.

CA-010-109 Negit Island
(Map 01-0)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This island is located in Mono Lake.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 197 acre Negit Island Natural Area consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation is extremely sparse on this small island due to lack of soil development on the rough, volcanic rock. The island was designated a natural area in recognition of its significance as a seagull rookery.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The island itself has generally retained its primeval character without permanent improvements or human habitation. However, water diversions are resulting in a steady reduction in water levels, thereby adding land area to the perimeter of the island. Further reductions in lake level will greatly alter the ecology of the island, the greatest danger being encroachment by predators utilizing the emerging land bridge.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Although an extremely limited number of visitors to the unit could experience solitude, the island, as a whole, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Due to the limited vegetative and topographic screening, visitors on this small island would find it difficult to attain seclusion from others. The unit also lacks opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities to experience freedom of unconfined movement are extremely limited due to the restrictive size and nature of the island.

There is a high degree of public interest in the unit due to its unique value as a rookery for approximately one-fourth of the California gull population. These high wildlife values will be considered during the regular Bureau Planning Process. Use of the island for primitive recreation purposes would be highly incompatible with its delicate wildlife resource values. Furthermore, the high wildlife values combined with the water level reduction problem of Mono Lake have created a special management situation which has necessitated such actions as dynamiting a channel across the emerging land bridge and other protective measures, all of which would be incompatible with management of the unit as wilderness.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A majority of comments addressed inclusion of Negit Island as a Wilderness Study Area. Numerous reasons were provided. Most comments stated the inventory unit has retained its natural and scientific character; it contains outstanding opportunities for solitude

or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and it also meets the size criteria when considered with Mono Lake and the surrounding shoreline. It was reasoned that the roadlessness of Mono Lake should be considered as a part of the unit when assessing wilderness values. However, the first step in the Bureau Wilderness Program is to inventory the public lands to assess wilderness character according to the criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act, in defining wilderness, states that wilderness is "an area of undeveloped Federal land (emphasis added) retaining its primeval character and influence . . ." Since Mono Lake itself is not Federal land, it was not inventoried for potential wilderness values. Negit Island has been inventoried as a discrete public land parcel, not as a broad physiographic expanse that incorporates the Mono Basin. Additional comments indicated the need to save the gull rookery. This resource value will be considered during the Bureau Planning Process. Furthermore, a Federal/State Task Force is currently addressing this sensitive issue. Comments were also directed at the island's opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The island's limited size and its lack of vegetative and topographic screening would accommodate few visitors without impairing their opportunities to attain seclusion. Further, opportunites to experience freedom of unconfined movement are limited due to the restrictive size of the island. Hence, opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited. Several comments indicated a preference to designate the island as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This resource value will be addressed in the Bureau Planning Process. A few comments agreed that the island lacked opportunities for solitude or recreation but believed the island should be studied further anyway. The inventory criteria of the Wilderness Act states that the undeveloped Federal land must provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Subsequently, Bureau findings regarding the status of Negit Island remain unchanged.

CA-010-110 Mt. Olsen
(Map 01-M)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is located northeast of Lee Vining and is bounded by Toiyabe National Forest and a Forest Service road to the west, by Highway 395 and non-public land to the east, by a Forest Service road to the north, and by Inyo National Forest to the south. The unit totals 1,640 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. There are no adjacent Federal lands currently under consideration for wilderness.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few comments recommended that the unit be retained for wilderness study due to its location adjacent to the Mt. Olsen RARE II Area. However, the Forest Service has designated that area as non-wilderness. Therefore, the unit does not adjoin any Federal land identified as having wilderness values.

Two comments addressed Study Phase elements, such as potential mineral and geothermal values, which will receive consideration through the Bureau Planning Process.

Two comments indicated the presence of mining activity in the unit. Although this activity was noted in the field, it was not discussed in the narrative since the area failed to meet the necessary size requirements for consideration as a WSA.

Subsequently, no changes were made in the initial findings.

CA-020-002 Strip
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Three sides of the unit are bounded by private lands including the XL Ranch Indian Reservation in the southern end. The majority of the western border is the Modoc National Forest and a little private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 8,400 acre unit is entirely under public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of a small portion of a shallow bluff that overlooks the North Pit River. The unit contains the flat to gently rolling rocky plateau on top. Most of the face of the bluff lies outside the unit. The vegetation consists primarily of juniper with an understory of sagebrush and other low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit's natural condition has been compromised by the number and placement of intrusions within the narrow shaped unit. Numerous fencelines, reservoirs and well-defined ways are scattered about the unit. The sum of the intrusions in such a small narrow unit would expose a visitor to reoccurring man-made features.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The size and shape of the unit limits opportunities in either of these categories. Freedom of movement is severely restricted by the narrow shape, and the placement of intrusions makes it difficult to avoid the presence of man. A distinct lack of diversity in natural features further limits opportunities in both these wilderness characteristics.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three comments were received objecting to dropping the unit based on the rationale that the area is not natural in character without identifying the specific intrusions so to receive public evaluation. The area is not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area because it was determined not to meet both the natural condition and the outstanding opportunity requirements. This unit, along with numerous other units, was also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-003 Fitzhugh Creek
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, in northeast California, is bounded on the south by the Rock Springs Road, on the north by an unimproved road (for 12 miles), by private land to the west, and the Modoc National Forest outlines the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 19,080 acre unit is entirely under public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landform is characterized by a gentle rise in elevation from west to east, broken by numerous shallow drainages. Fitzhugh Creek forms a canyon 160 feet deep through the center of the unit. The vegetation of the unit runs from the sagebrush-rabbitbrush association throughout the unit to juniper and pines scattered within the canyons and at higher elevations in the eastern sections.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural condition of this unit has been substantially altered. Although most of the man-made instrusions within the unit have minor impact, the cumulative effect of man's work severely detracts from the area's naturalness. Man-made features include fencelines, diversion ditches, water storage structures, many miles of ways, and dead-end roads.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Because of the low topography variance and lack of adequate vegetative screening, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist. Fitzhugh Creek Canyon does offer some opportunity for solitude, but it is only a small area within the total unit. Additionally, the dead-end roads and fencelines confine movement and keep users in constant exposure to man's influence.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and the rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made to this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-004 Likely Tableland
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is located in northeastern California. The northern boundary is formed by the Rock Springs Road, the eastern boundary is the Modoc National Forest, Nelson Springs Road bounds the unit to the south, as does California Highway 395 to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

There are 12,310 acres of public land within the unit surrounding two parcels of non-public land totaling 1,760 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The undulating terrain gradually rises in elevation from 4,600 feet in the west to 5,400 feet in the east. No features present themselves in this generally uniform landscape. In the western half of the unit grasses and scattered low sage are dominant with the sage becoming thicker and juniper appearing in the eastern portions of the area. A number of intermittent drainages traverse the unit but provide little topographic relief.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Indication of man's presence in the area is highly evident through the large number of intrusions present. Although the intrusions are of minor impact individually, the cumulative effect of man's work within the unit deters the overall naturalness present. Man-made features include 18 dam or pit-type reservoirs up to 3 acres in size, 3 miles of diversion ditch, fencelines, dead-end roads and ways.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Because of the lack of topographical and vegetative diversity, along with the confined effect brought about by the large number of intrusions within the unit, no outstanding opportunities exist for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Users would be in constant exposure to the presence of other users or to his works.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and the rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. A second comment was received supporting the unit as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which is not a wilderness inventory factor. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-005 East Field
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is in northeast California. The unit is bounded by the Nelson Springs Road on the north, by private land to the west and portions to the north and south, and by the Modoc National Forest on the east and portions of the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 6,430 acre unit is entirely in public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain and vegetation of this unit vary from somewhat steep, rocky bluffs with dispersed junipers to a flatter and gently rolling landscape with a sage and grass association. (Intermittent drainages found throughout the area serve to moderately break the terrain.) Elevations vary 1,000 feet overall throughout the unit. Unit dimensions are approximately 4 miles in length by 3 miles wide with large portions less than 2 miles wide.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The cumulative effect of man's work has a severe impact on the natural character of the area, with the unit being invaded by 11 reservoirs and 19 miles of fences and ways. A visitor would be in constant exposure to works of man.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Solitude would be extremely difficult to achieve due to the small size, the low profiled vegetation, and limited topographic separation. Users would have unlimited chances to be gregarious and little chance to feel removed from one another. Primitive recreational opportunities are limited by the same characteristics.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationales for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-006 Infernal Caverns
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Boundaries are formed by private land on the east and portions of the west with the remainder being roads of natural surface materials.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

There are 9,700 acres of public land in the unit surrounding 640 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography varies from rolling rocky terrain to a flat plateau. No prominent features exist within the unit. Vegetation consists of sagebrush-juniper and a sagebrush-grass association. The unit extends approximately 7 miles north to south and 2 miles east to west.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The evidence of man's presence is so apparent that it causes the unit to have an unnatural character. The major form of intrusion is livestock watering structures, predominantely dam-type reservoirs, and their associated access routes.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

A sense of solitude would be extremely difficult to realize in the small narrow area mostly lacking topographic and vegetative screening features. The somewhat dense juniper timber along the western boundary provides adequate vegetative screening for one to avoid sights and sounds of other visitors, but this opportunity is negated by the small size of the timbered area. Other than a perennial stream located near the southern border, the small confined unit contains no features that would supply a good foundation for primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationales for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-102 Beaver Creek
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries include the Little Valley and Willow Spring Roads, a powerline right-of-way to the east, the Modoc National Forest to the south, with private land and the Pittville Road forming the western limits of the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,260 acres of public land and encloses 640 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The nonconforming shaped unit, 4 to 5 miles wide in the southern half and less than 1 mile to 2.5 miles wide in the northern half, extends a little over 6 miles in length. Beaver Creek Canyon is the prominent feature and breaks up the large, rocky plateau characteristic of the unit. Beaver Creek is a perennial stream. A juniper-sage plant association is the dominant vegetation cover with some scattered pine within the canyon.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit has lost its original natural character due to the large amount of man's work within the unit. A 2,000-acre tree plantation exists within the southeastern portion of the unit where the vegetation was chained, slashed, and wind-rowed. A large reservoir system with associated ways exists in the west-central portion of the unit. These intrusions have a cumulative impact that is very detrimental on the natural character of this small unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This unit does not possess any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude. The relatively flat, conforming plateau that stretches across the small unit, coupled with the lack of adequate vegetation cover, provides no opportunities for either of these wilderness characteristics.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter noted power distribution lines existing in the unit, and a proposed pipeline. A distribution line was noted during the inventory and was used as the unit's eastern boundary, but no additional lines were found. The proposed pipeline is a Study Phase consideration. Additional comments mentioned: range use and development, and a need for access to improvements to perform mechanical maintenance, which are Study Phase considerations; and general support of the area's wilderness values based on its supplemental values and proximity to National Park Service land, which are Study Phase considerations. Individual sections of the unit are mentioned as not meeting wilderness criteria with the rest meeting it however, no information is provided why the sections qualify which was not verified in the Bureau's inventory findings. The unit, along with numerous other units, is also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to its wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-102A Beaver Creek (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

An improved logging road limits the area on three sides with the Lassen National Forest forming the south boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 1,430 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-102B Beaver Creek (B)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by a powerline right-of-way, a natural surface road, and private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 440 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-103 Pit River Canyon
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Non-public lands form a major portion of all the boundaries of this unit. The north boundary is a natural surface road, the east and south boundaries are the Western Pacific Railroad line, and the west boundary is the Little Valley Road.

III. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,730 acres of public land with no non-public inholdings. Approximately 11,575 acres are identified as a WSA unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is located entirely within California and approximately ten miles southeast of McArthur. The area is characterized by a large flat cut by the Pit River and Horse Creek with two buttes in the northeast and numerous small hills in the south. Pit River Canyon averages in depth from 300 to 400 feet with extremes at 750 feet. The U-shaped water course through the unit has rough lava outcroppings, rimrock, and steep nearly vertical cliffs. Horse Creek joins the Pit River in the south. Its canyon depths up to 450 feet create a similar topography to the Pit River Canyon. Both canyons total approximately 13 miles of rugged watercourse and encompass almost 5,000 acres. The Buttes of the northeast are covered by dense stands of juniper, some sage and grasses. The southern volcanic flatlands are predominately grasses and forbs with scattered juniper. The canyon vegetation is typically riparian with willows and shrubs at the water edge and juniper, black oak, and ponderosa and jeffrey pine within the canyon.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The several scattered ways and reservoirs are of low impact being well screened by vegetation and topography. An unnatural area exists in the northeast arm due to the nature of and the density of intrusions in a confined area--road, diversion ditch, and a fenceline. The unnatural area, approximately 100 acres of public land in the north and west side of the diversion ditch, has been excluded from the WSA boundary. The northwest boundary has also been reverted to the boundary of the unit; it had been withdrawn for no inventory reason.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and recreation exist in this area. This potential is exhibited by the two canyons, some flatlands, and the numerous buttes, hills, and draws. Dense juniper cover in the north and scattered cover in the south provide good vegetative screening. This topographic variation enhances the recreation appeal. In addition, the flowing water of the two rivers is perennial and at times of large volume. Movement is virtually uninterrupted, except at the steepest portions of the two canyons. The canyon riparian and pine vegetation provide additional variation and screening.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments supported the unit's WSA recommendation. Others addressed extending the boundaries as a buffer zone for protecting the canyon and wildlife which is a Study Phase consideration. The preliminary recommendation was opposed in a few letters for such reasons as favoring multiple use management, livestock needs and rockhound and desert lovers needs. These factors are Study Phase considerations. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-103A Pit River Canyon (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north and east by non-public properties, on the west by the Little Valley Road, and on the south by a rancher access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 160 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three letters were received supporting the unit as part of a WSA complex. No inventory data was supplied and the complex proposal is a Study Phase consideration.

CA-020-103B Pit River Canyon (B)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the south, on the west central portion and on the lower eastern sides by a rancher access road. The remaining portions of the unit are bounded by non-public lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 3,400 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three commenters noted that this unit was not shown on previous public maps and should therefore become a WSA. The unit does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for WSA identification. Furthermore, this unit is unnatural due to extensive vegetation manipulation conducted in the past.

CA-020-104 Bald Mountain
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by private lands in the east, south, and west and by dirt surfaced roads and the Modoc National Forest on the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 3,600 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-104A Bald Mountain (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded by unit 104 in the northeast and private land in the northwest, west, and south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 2,800 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-105 Silva Flat
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is bounded on the north by natural surface roads; on the west by the Slate Creek Road, non-public land, and a natural surface road; on the south by non-public land and the Slate Creek Road; and on the east by a natural surface road and non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 20,700 acres of public land and encloses six non-public inholdings totalling 2,840 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The northeast portion of the unit consists of flats and rolling hills with sagebrush dominating the Silva Flat area. Toward the unit's center dense stands of juniper and scattered pine cover the rolling slopes. The west-central portion of the unit has several moderately steep drainages opening into Coyote Reservoir Flat. Indian Mountain lies south of this flat, rising sharply to an elevation of 5,600 feet. Yellow pine and juniper form a moderately dense canopy over the west-central and southern portions of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit has been severely impacted by the works of man. Approximately 17 miles of ways and 5 miles of roads project deeply into the interior of the unit. Over 8 miles of bulldozed fenceline cross the unit center and 24 reservoirs also spread over this area. A cat trail fire line runs for approximately 8 miles across the northwest unit quarter. The unit is unnatural in character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The moderately dense juniper and yellow pine covered mountains, slopes, and drainages around Coyote Reservoir as well as large portions of other areas provide good opportunities for a visitor to experience feelings of remoteness. However, man's presence is felt throughout the unit because of the number of unnatural structures. The channeling effect caused by the network of fences and roads restricts unconfined movement necessary for primitive forms of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments were received regarding this unit's value as cattle range, which is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-105A Silva Flat (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Non-public land forms portions or all of the north, west, and east boundaries. The Slate Creek Road completes the north boundary and the Little Valley access road completes the south boundary and forms the east boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 3,930 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-202 Dry Creek
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by South Fork Mountain Road and Forest Service land; on the west by an improved, dirt-surfaced road; on the south by an improved, dirt-surfaced road and non-public land; and on the east by non-public land and U.S. Highway 395.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains about 4,800 acres of public land and 120 acres of non-public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-205 Cold Springs
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Private land forms the border on the east side and on the southern point. The Cold Springs Ranch Road and the Clarks Valley Road form the west and north boundaries respectively.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists of approximately 5,670 acres of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The oddly shaped unit varies in width from ¼ mile to 2½ miles and is roughly 5 miles in length. Rocky, rolling hills with occasional rock outcroppings make up the landscape of the area. A conically shaped mountain, Cold Springs Mountain, is the main feature of the unit, with elevation ranging from 5,500 feet to 7,000 feet. Sagebrush, and other low shrubs constitute the major type of vegetation. Scattered throughout the area are stands of juniper and mountain mahogany.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A number of intrusions are formed along the perimeter of the unit, however the effect of these is not to render the unit unnatural. One area encompassing approximately 300 acres does contain enough intrusions to be considered an unnatural area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The only factors contributing to a sense of solitude are the often dense stands of juniper; however, this is on a relatively small scale and not enough to offer an outstanding opportunity. The uniformity of landform in combination with the small size of the unit further limits this opportunity. The essentially featureless landscape, the small size, and uniformity of the landscape alsc limit the opportunity for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received endorsed the unit's ability to provide Outstanding Opportunities due to its lack of visitation and adjacent roadless area. These factors were considered during the inventory. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-206 Mendiboure
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Clarks Valley Road forms the northern boundary of the unit. The Cold Springs Road and the Brinn Man Ranch Road define the eastern limits of the area, with the Juniper Ridge Road forming the southern. The Mendiboure Reservoir Road and non-public land form the remaining boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains approximately 29,200 acres of public land enclosing 2,200 acres of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain consists of small, broad-sloped hills and mountain peaks. Numerous drainages are found throughout the area. The northern portions of the unit contain the more steep, rocky and canyon like drainages. Broad, open drainages are found throughout the southern area. Vegetation is dominated by juniper and sagebrush. Juniper cover is less apparent in the south, but becomes fairly dense in the north portion. Small stands of aspen and mountain mahogany are found at the higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Approximately 33 miles of fenceline, 13 miles of ways, and 25 dam and pit-type reservoirs give this unit an unnatural character. These intrusions are located throughout the unit, and even though the vegetation provides some screening, a hike through the area would expose the visitor occurring evidences of man's activities.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Seclusion could be realized in the northern half of the unit among the juniper covered ridges and moderately deep canyons. Numerous barriers exist for a visitor to feel alone. This feeling would be more difficult to achieve within the more flat open areas characterizing most of the southern half, but solitude could be achieved. However, an emotional presence of man would be felt throughout the unit due to numerous man-made structures. The area lacks distinct natural features that lend themselves to primitive type recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Three comments noted that man-made influences can exist within Wilderness Study Areas as specified in Bureau Inventory Guidelines. This point was considered previously in the inventory. Comments also supported the unit's ability to provide Outstanding Opportunities due to varied terrain. This factor was also considered in the inventory, and field examinations do not support the comments. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-207 McDonald Peak
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is 90 percent bounded by non-public holdings. The northern, western, and eastern boundaries are composed of solely non-public holdings. On the south is the Jones Ranch Road, the Juniper Ridge Road, and non-public holdings.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains approximately 20,000 acres of public land. Enclosed within the unit are °60 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is composed solely of McDonald Mountain, a semi-rugged, uniformly rising mountain with various drainages, small ridges and knolls. The mountain rises from the base at 5,300 feet to an elevation of 7,931 feet at the top in 4 miles. The vegetation present varies from wide expanses of sage to pockets of juniper at lower elevations and mahogany at higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit is heavily impacted by the imprints of man. It contains many miles of fence, some bulldozed, at least 30 dam-type reservoirs, spring developments with water troughs, at least 8 miles of ways and 8 miles of dead-end roads. The water developments are especially obtrusive with large dams in every drainage of consequence. The number and obtrusiveness of these intrusions leave this area in an unnatural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The centrally located mountain peak with associated small ridges and mixed juniper mahogany vegetation affords some opportunity for one to avoid man's physical presence but the emotional feeling of solitude would not be achieved in the totally unnatural landscape where man-made features are dominant. Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities are precluded by the presence of fencelines and roads within the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-207A McDonald Peak (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are the Juniper Ridge Road on the south and a rancher access road on the north. Non-public lands exist on the west and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous, roadless public land (1,7000 acres) or does it meet any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirements to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-208 Anderson Mountain
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit lies entirely within California. The boundaries include the Ash Valley Road to the north, the Spooner Road to the west, a private access road to the southeast, and non-public lands along the remaining boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 9,570 acres of public land. It also encloses 40 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit averages less than 2.5 miles in width and is less than 5 miles long. Elevation ranges from 5,100 feet to 6,059 feet in the center of the unit. The northern portion of the unit is comprised of rocky, rolling, juniper covered hills. The same holds true in the west and southeast. The southern portion is composed mainly of a broad, flat sagebrush basin. The vegetation ranges from juniper in the hills to sagebrush and grass understory throughout the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's imprint within the unit is limited to one reservoir, one acre in size and masked from view by vegetative and topographical screening. The area is in a natural state.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area's low topographic and vegetative relief do not provide for outstanding opportunities. Its several long wide open sagebrush flats and various gradually sloping hillsides with scattered to moderate juniper cover coupled with the unit's small size and configuration do not provide for outstanding opportunities. Use would be confined to very small scattered areas.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three comments were received addressing the unit's Outstanding Opportunities due to geographic location, adjacent undeveloped public lands, size and configuration. These points were considered previously in making an inventory unit decision. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-208A Anderson Mountain (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit include the Spooner Road to the west, a road identified during field inventory to the east, with non-public along the northern and southern perimeters.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous, roadless public land (1,080 acres) nor does it meet any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-209 South Ash Valley
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The highly irregular shaped unit is bounded in the north and east by private land and small sections of road, in the west by private land, and in the south by private land and the Ash Valley Road (Lassen County).

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 5,700 acre unit is in public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landform is oriented along a west facing ridge running from northwest to southeast with gradual slopes in the south and steeper ground in the north. A rather small, broad low profiled mountain rises from the ridge crest. Vegetation ranges from juniper trees and sagebrush in the south to mahogany and pine in the north.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features are of a high density in this unit. There are 7 reservoirs, 6 miles of fenceline, 2 ways, 3 roads, and an old logging site in the north end of the unit. The area has not retained its natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Many factors nullify opportunities for wilderness experience. These include the small size, irregular shape (with many extensions less than ½ mile in width), and lack of topographic diversity that would support primitive forms of recreation. Use would be extremely confined and place users in constant exposure to one another.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. No information was provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-210 Nelson Corral
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit lies just west of Madeline, California. Non-public land forms 80 percent of the boundaries, with the Modoc National Forest, the Ash Valley Road, the Nelson Corral Road, and Highway 395, comprising the remaining borders.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 14,600 acre unit is entirely in public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The elevation ranges from 5,500 feet in the east to 7,100 feet in the central portion. The perimeter of the unit is characterized by flat, rolling hills of sagebrush and scattered juniper. The hills increase uniformly in elevation towards the center of the unit where they roundoff somewhat. The shape of the unit is elongated, narrow, and irregular. In three locations the unit tapers to one-quarter mile or less, and even in the core the boundaries vary from three-quarters of a mile to no more than two miles apart. The area lacks any prominent landmarks.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A lightning fire in 1973 burned 6,000 acres of the unit. Fire suppression activities are evident throughout the burned area, including a cat line, extensive chainsaw work, and a few handlines. Other evidence of man's efforts in the unit includes ways, reservoirs, and fencelines. These unnatural structures, combined with the cat lines, severely detract from the natural condition of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The fire that swept this area cut a large swath through the central section of the unit,

eliminating the vegetation that might have offered solitude. Throughout the unit the overall narrowness and especially the tapered passages would serve to funnel visitors together and would restrict freedom of movement. Additionally, the unit lacks any topographical barriers, landforms, or size that would enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with a number of other units, is mentioned in a letter of support for Wilderness Study Area but no information is provided why any of the areas qualify. It is also mentioned in another general letter addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comments are made about this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-211 Tule Mountain
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is northeast of Madeline, and includes Tule Mountain. The boundaries include the Southern Pacific Railroad to the west, the Tule Mountain Access Road on the east, with the northern Moon Lake Access Road forming the southern border. The northern boundary is formed by the intersection of the east and west boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 16,950 acres of contiguous public land encloses 880 acres of non-public land in 4 scattered tracts.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

There is a large topography variation within the unit ranging from 4,900 feet in the north and east to 7,100 feet on the Tule Mountain summit. Drainages formed by intermittent streams thread the unit with a sagebrush-juniper community dominant throughout. Ponderosa pine is found within various draws, as is mountain mahogany. Tule Mountain forms the prominent landmark of the unit, and is viewed for miles within the surrounding areas. The eastern half of the area has heavy juniper tree cover. Two roads cut deep into the unit's core.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's influence has not significantly degraded the area's natural condition. A few miles of ways and an occasional reservoir are evident but the topography and vegetation absorbs their impacts well. The two roads dead ending in the unit's core are highly visible from many points.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does not provide either of these wilderness characteristics. The broad gradually sloping mountainous landscape does not possess diversity that would enhance opportunities for primitive type recreation. Drainages are shallow and intermittent providing limited if any opportunities at all for water related recreational activities or studies. The relatively small sized area has mostly light vegetative screening. These topographic and vegetative features provide only minor barriers that would help visitors keep apart from one another thus enhancing opportunities for solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments were received both supporting and conflicting with the Bureau's finding. New roads were identified without specifics why the roads meet road criteria or their location as well as statements saying existing roads could be closed which is not an inventory consideration. The presence and need of range facilities was cited. Their existence was noted and considered in the inventory but "need" is not an inventory consideration. A number of letters supported the area as a WSA without providing any information why the unit met WSA criteria. Information was provided about specific "ways" that were supported as roads, however, the information was not verified by a second field examination. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-212 Moon Lake
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit lies entirely within the state of California. The boundaries include the McKabe Flat Road to the west, a Forest Service access road to the east, with non-public land forming the remaining limits on the north and south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Three parcels of non-public land totaling 360 acres are encompassed by the approximately 6,000 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Elevation within the unit varies from 5,300 feet to 7,200 feet. The topography can be characterized as gently rolling to moderately steep north-south oriented ridgelines. Cedar Creek, located in the southwest corner of the unit, is a perennial stream fed by many springs and intermittent drainages. The vegetation is of the juniper-sage association, with mahogany scattered throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The overall natural condition has not been impacted through the work of man. The fence-lines and ways within the north and northeastern portions of the unit have low impact, with some vegetation occurring.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The uniform slopes with well defined drainages and topographical screening afforded from the juniper cover allows chances of solitude, but with the confined nature of the boundary configuration and the small size of the unit, opportunities for solitude would not be considered excellent. The unit lacks size and landform features that enhances ones chance for primitive recreation pursuits.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three comments were received disagreeing with the Bureau's assessment of Outstanding Opportunities; however, no information was provided why the unit met the solitude requirement. The presence of Cedar Creek was considered in the inventory when assessing primitive recreation opportunities. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-212A Moon Lake (A)
(Map 02-D)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is the McKabe Flat Road. The remainder of the boundaries are formed by non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,310 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-303 Fredonyer
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

California Highway 139 forms the western border. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by alternating private lands and natural surface roads. An extensive and irregular network of private land and roads of varying quality make up the southern border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 32,760 acres of contiguous public land which encompasses about 2,200 acres of non-public land in mostly a solid land pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit contains steep slopes along the western border which quickly change to a flat to rolling expanse with scattered hills. The outlying portions of the unit contain rolling hills and small peaks with intermittent drainages. The drainages found here are not well defined and break up the landscape to a minimal degree. Fredonyer Peak dominates the south-central portion of the unit. Most of the steep slopes of this mountain are within the area. Elevation ranges from 5,200 feet to 7,943 feet at the summit. The drainages found on these slopes are more defined than in the remainder of the unit. The majority of the unit is covered by sagebrush and scattered stands of juniper; the slopes of Fredonyer contain scattered stands of pine and white fir. The shape of the unit is highly irregular with several blocks of private land jutting deeply into the area or constricting outlying portions of the area. This results in distances between outside boundaries or between the outside boundary and internal private lands that are commonly between one-quarter mile and one mile wide.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has been reassessed and found to be mostly natural in character except for about 2,200 acres located in the southeast corner of the unit. Numerous ways and bulldozed fencelines with little regrowth of vegetation occurring traverse steep slopes and ridges resulting in a significant negative impact on one's feeling of natural condition. Fredonyer Peak, the prominent landfeature within the unit, lies at the south point of the unit and is highly impacted by the maze of roads and other man-made features visible from this vantage point. The scattered man-made features located in the northern 2/3 of the unit are widely scattered and well screened by vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

A second field examination reconfirmed the initial evaluation that the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The north side of Fredonyer Peak could provide opportunities for solitude due to the dense vegetative cover, the scattered shallow drainages and the presence of a narrow canyon formed by Pine Creek. However, the bulk of these opportunities would be occurring on private land which are not considered to be a part of the inventory unit. Primitive recreational activities especially cross-country skiing are known to take place in the area but mostly on the roads forming the unit's boundary or on the ones that deadend within the unit. The non-public land within the unit because of its solid pattern cutting deeply within the unit and because most of it is fenced further restricts opportunities for unconfined types of primitive recreation. The unit does contain some virgin white fir stands which has brought public attention to the unit in the past, however ACEC designation or some other type of special management designation has been being considered for a portion of the unit. The unit does not fullfill this wilderness requirement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A number of comments addressed the presence of more roads than identified on the maps but no locations or information was provided that could be field checked. A large number supported the unit as a WSA also without providing any information about the unit meeting WSA criteria. Other comments supported the non-WSA designation, referenced a proposed pipeline and access needs to maintain existing range facilities which are both Study Phase considerations. The northern half of the unit was supported as meeting WSA criteria, however, field examinations did not verify this. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-303A Fredonyer (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

These two small parcels are bounded on the west and north by an above-ground powerline, and are bounded on the east and south by non-public lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 700 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for WSA identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-303B Fredonyer (B)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

California Highway 139 forms the west boundary, a road paralleling the powerline forms the north one, and an irregular network of non-public land and unnamed roads form the remaining ones.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,200 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for WSA identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Unit newly identified.

CA-020-304 Schott Canyon
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit lies entirely within the State of California. The boundaries include a surfaced county road and private lands on the north, the eastern boundary is formed by a primitive type road, an unimproved road bounds the unit to the south, with a transmission line and service road forming the western limits.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is comprised of 15,460 acres of public land which encloses 2 parcels of non-public land totaling 240 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is oddly shaped due to the land ownership pattern. Elevation varies from 5,100 feet to 6,834 feet. The north end is steeper than the remainder, with numerous drainages cutting through the unit. The principal vegetative types are big sagebrush and associated shrubs and grasses. Western juniper is found in scattered stands on the ridges at higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Because of man's influence throughout the area, the natural character is significantly impacted. The numerous reservoirs and miles of fencelines and ways have a low impact individually, but when viewed cumulatively, they have a severe impact on the area's naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The prominent peak of the unit lies in the north-central portion, with a sense of solitude possible for the lone visitor there, but because of the unit's size and boundary configuration, solitude and primitive recreational experiences would be limited. The boundary configuration, along with the system of fences and ways present, confines the recreationist in pursuit of primitive recreation to a small area with constant reminders of man's presence.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments were received both concurring and conflicting with non-WSA recommendation. Conflicting comments were that the identified impacts on natural condition could be rehabilitated using hand labor and that the opportunities for solitude were outstanding due to the extremely low level of visitation to the unit and its geographic isolation from population centers. This information was previously considered during the inventory. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-305 East Snowstorm
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the east by U. S. Highway 395, on the north and west by maintained dirt roads, and on the south by a county paved road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 8,970 acres of publicly owned land which surround three parcels of non-public land totaling 1,040 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Saddle Rock Hill, elevation 5,470 feet and located in the center of the unit, is the prominent landmark in the unit. The topography surrounding this prominence is gentle to moderate downsloping broken by a shallow intermittent drainage along the west side of the unit. Sagebrush with scattered juniper is the dominant vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is natural in character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE FOR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does not offer outstanding opportunity for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Limiting factors are size, lack of topographic relief and diversity and vegetative screening.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three comments conflicted with the non-WSA recommendation. However, the comments addressed two units jointly without discernable information to a specific unit. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-306 Shumway
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Horse Lake Road, a county maintained road, and private land form the eastern and southern boundaries of this unit. The Old Stage Road on the west and private land on the north complete the boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 25,540 acres of contiguous publicly owned land which surrounds 1,640 acres of non-public land in 8 separate parcels.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landscape is dominated by two conical shaped peaks. Drainages are found on all sides of these peaks, but they generally do little to break up the broad slopes. Elevation ranges from 5,400 feet to over 6,600 feet. Sagebrush and other low shrubs dominate the area. Juniper is found along the ridges at higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is substantially noticeable throughout much of the unit. Twenty-six miles of ways constitute the main offender. Also scattered throughout the area are fencelines, reservoirs, and spring developments. One hiking through the area for a natural experience would be in repeated exposure to man's work on the landscape.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The conical mountains with their broad, unbroken slopes offer wide fields of view making it difficult to avoid the influence of other visitors, thereby limiting opportunities for solitude. This uniformity also lessens the unit's ability to meet the needs for primitive recreation. The uniformity does not provide a broad base for a variety of primitive recreation activities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments were received both supporting and conflicting with the non-WSA recommendation. Conflicting comments were that the identified impacts on natural condition could be returned to a substantially unnoticeable level via hand labor and natural process of revegetation and that a feeling of solitude is easily obtained in the area. The rehabilitation potential of the impacts was previously considered during the inventory and no information was provided why the area offered outstanding opportunities for solitude. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-307 Pacific West
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the east by U. S. Highway 395, on the north by a county-maintained road, on the west by the Southern Pacific Railroad line and private land, and on the south by a maintained dirt road and private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 10,200 acres of publicly owned land and no non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's terrain is typified by flats and low, rolling hills with one shallow canyon in the southwest corner. Vegetation is grass, sage, and juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are a few ways and a developed spring in the unit that cumulatively have a minor impact on the unit's naturalness. The area has retained its naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's lack of topographic relief and mostly low growth vegetation, in combination with its small size result in a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The three comments received believed the unit did offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the very low use levels the area would experience. This was considered in the inventory evaluation. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-308 Snowstorm
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inventory unit is entirely contained within a primitive-type road except for the southeast corner. Non-public land forms this boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 16,200 acre publicly owned unit encloses 640 acres of non-public land in one parcel.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation varies from juniper and sagebrush on lower slopes to sagebrush and grasses at higher elevations. The topography is dominated by Snowstorm Mountain, a broad conical shaped mountain. Elevations range between 4,700 feet in the south to 6,561 feet at the peak. The terrain slopes mostly uniformly and gradually from the mountain summit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is of consequence throughout much of the unit. As a result of a 6,000-acre fire in 1974, 10 miles of bulldozed fire line is very evident in spite of reseeding attempts. The linear scar with a rock berm cut across mountain slopes and ridges and is highly evident. Various vehicle trails, some well defined, totaling 10 miles serve numerous dam-type reservoirs. These trails are especially impacting from higher elevations within the unit. The somewhat broken topography effectively screens some intrusions but a random walk through the area would expose one to reoccurring works of man.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Small areas of the unit could provide exceptional opportunities for one to avoid contact with other users. The more heavily forested north slopes, with a few knolls and ridges, provides both topographic and vegetative screening. The remaining areas lack these features that would enable a user to feel distant from other users in the area. The non-challenging and non-complex mountain would provide very limited occurrences for a visitor to indulge in primitive types of recreational pursuits.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments were received conflicting with and one concurring with the non-WSA recommendation. Conflicting comments that all of the impacts in the area are substantially unnoticeable and that the area meets the outstanding opportunities requirement for primitive recreational pursuits are not verified by Bureau field examinations. The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationales for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-308A Snowstorm (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded by non-public lands on the east and a portion of the west border. The south and remainder of the west border is the Snowstorm Road. The north border is a natural surface access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 1,390 acre unit is entirely under public ownership. The unit does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemption to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a WSA.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-309 Karlo Tableland
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is 10 miles northeast of Susanville. It's boundaries include a Southern Pacific Railroad spur along the northeast portion, the Pete's Valley Road along portions of the western boundary, access roads to non-public lands or grazing facilities form the southern, northern, and a portion of the western limits, with non-public land forming the balance of the borders.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area contains about 27,500 acres of contiguous public land which surround 720 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The 6,100 foot Black Mountain in the northern portion is the prominent landmark within the unit. It is surrounded by rocky knolls and intermittent drainages covered with sagebrush, bitterbrush, and scattered stands of juniper. The remainder of the unit has an overall elevation change of only 400 feet, and is characterized by rocky, rolling hills of sagebrush and bitterbrush. Snowstorm Creek, mostly an intermittent creek, and Pete's Creek, a perennial drainage, are located respectively in the east-central and west-central portions of the unit. Non-public land cuts deeply into the interior forming a corridor of public land less than a ½ mile in width.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The intrusions, mostly fencelines, have a minor impact throughout the unit when considered both individually and cumulatively. The Southern Pacific Railroad, which runs along the eastern border, has an emotional impact on the naturalness of the unit, but it, along with the low impact of man's work within the unit, does not produce an effect detrimental to the natural character of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Solitude would be difficult to achieve on the large, sagebrush-covered flat found throughout most of the unit. Man's movements and noise would be readily visible and audible due to the conforming landscape. A sense of remoteness could be achieved around Black Mountain where some topographic and vegetative relief exist but this constitutes a very small area. Opportunities for primitive recreation exist merely because the land is available but a base does not exist for any unusual occurrences. Perennial Pete's Creek supports a very limited fisheries, however, only a mile of the stream is within the unit, and Snowstorm Creek is mostly intermittent (shown as intermittent on USGS Maps) with little year-round water. The unit does not meet any of the outstanding opportunities requirement.

IV. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationales for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to this unit. Three comments conflicted with the assessment of solitude and primitive recreation opportunities based upon the units size, expansiveness and the availability of water in the creeks. These factors were considered previously and a second time. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-309A Karlo Tableland (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit lies to the west of 309 and is bounded by the Pete's Valley Road on the west, private land along Pete's Creek to the east and south, and an access road connecting these two borders, to the north. Two other parcels of private land border the unit on the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 2,400 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for WSA identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None Received.

CA-020-310 Shaffer Mountain
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded in the east by Highway 395 and by private land in the north by a dirt surface road in the west by a dirt surface road and private land and in the south by private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 27,000 acres of publicly owned land and encloses 8 separate parcels of non-public land totaling 2,000 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography of this unit is dominated by Shaffer Mountain which rises some 2,600 feet above surrounding landscape. The highly symmetrical volcanic cone is broken up by numerous shallow, wide drainages radiating from the peak. Vegetation is primarily sage and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Many artificial features dominate the landscape. There are about seven reservoirs, two roads, a large communications installation with a powerline, which is visible from various vantage points, and fenceline in the northern section. All of these permanent intrusions significantly detract from the naturalness of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited because of the unit's open, symmetrical slopes, absence of screening vegetation, and numerous permanent improvements. The circular shape of the unit and the non-complex conical peak further detract from the opportunities for solitude and recreation because the peak is the focal point and all ridges and drainages lead to it. Use of the area would tend to gravitate to the mountain top.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment was received addressing a proposed pipeline crossing the unit which is a Study Phase consideration, not an inventory one. Three comments were received conflicting with the impacts of man-made intrusions and opportunities for solitude. Field examinations did not verify the claim that all man-made intrusions were substantially unnoticeable and that the area north of Shaffer Mountain peak provided outstanding opportunities for solitude. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-310A Shaffer (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Southern Pacific Railroad forms the boundary to the east, with the remaining boundaries formed by roads supporting grazing operations in the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,290 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-310B Shaffer (B)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The eastern boundary is formed by a high tension powerline, the southern portion is limited by non-public land, with two roads, forming the remaining boundaries. The roads support grazing operations on the public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 2,495 acres of contiguous public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-311 Tunnison Mountain
(Map 02-E)

Inventory Units CA-020-311 and CA-020-312 are now assessed as one inventory unit based upon a non-road determination for a previously identified road separating the two units.

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The north boundary is the Horse Lake Road; on the east the Pete's Valley-Mapes Spring Road and non-public land form the boundary; the west boundary is non-public land and the Horse Lake Road and the south one is non-public land and the Rice Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 21,450 acres of public land which surrounds about 760 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Horse Lake Mountains, Tunnison Mountain and Willow Creek are the prominent land features within the area. Both the Horse Lake and Tunnison Mountain are relatively narrow in width with numerous small mountain peaks. The almost continuous chain of mountain peaks has numerous drainages of various widths and depths radiating from it. Most of the drainages radiating from the Tunnison Mountains drain into Willow Creek which is a perennial stream meandering through Willow Creek Canyon. The canyon is quite verdant and varies in width and depth from 100 to 700 feet and 50 to 200 feet respectively. Vegetation present includes scattered junipers and pine trees along with a dominant sagebrush cover. The Willow Creek Canyon has been described as an oasis in a desert.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The main portion of the unit has retained its natural condition. Some evidence of man's activities in the form of past logging operations, ways and small reservoirs are scattered along the periphery, and the Long Canyon Road cuts deeply into the unit from the west boundary. However, the road is not considered to be within the unit and its impact would be a Study Phase consideration. The past logging activity has left numerous significant scars that would require more than hand labor or natural process to be judged substantially unnoticeable. Within approximately 560 acres declared unnatural are numerous miles of abandoned bladed logging roads and skid trails cut through rock fields. This maze of scars plus thousands of 3 foot high stumps negates any feeling of a natural setting. The WSA boundary has been adjusted to exclude this area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Willow Creek is recognized for its excellent trout fishing, and the canyon is considered by many to provide superior chances for bird watching and native studies. The numerous small mountain peaks along with the numerous small drainages and scattered trees aid the small unit in providing some opportunities for solitude. The presence of known supplemental values, very scenic canyon and Indian petroglyphs further enhances opportunities for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Long Canyon Road was addressed in a number of letters as meeting and as not meeting road criteria. A field examination verified that the road had been improved and maintained for almost its entire length; however, a stretch of it was determined not to meet road criteria. The road designation has been changed in part. Other comments supported the unit as a WSA citing such inventory data as trout fishing, nature studies, rich wildlife population and hiking along with opportunities for solitude enhanced by the broken topography of the mountains and Willow Creek Canyon. These factors were reassessed in making a final inventory decision for the combined unit. A proposed pipeline, private land, fragile wildlife populations, a WSA complex, protection for petroglyphs and access needs for maintenance of existing range facilities were mentioned in other comments but all of these are Study Phase considerations. The unit is now designated as a WSA.

CA-020-311A Tunnison Mountain (A)
(Map 02-E)

The unit is now considered to be a part of inventory unit CA-020-311. The road forming the north and west boundary was reassessed and determined not to meet road criteria its entire length thus making CA-020-311A a continuation of CA-020-311. The status change has also been noted on the map. Public comments received addressing this unit are assessed in concert with those addressing CA-020-311.

CA-020-312 Horse Lake Mountain
(Map 02-E)

The unit is now considered to be a part of inventory unti CA-020-311. The Long Canyon Road separating the two units was determined not to meet road criteria the entire length. Public comments addressing this unit are assessed in concert with those addressing CA-020-311. The status change has also been noted on the map.

CA-020-312A Horse Lake Mountain (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This very small unit is bounded on the north by ¼ mile of the Horse Lake Road. The east and west boundaries are each one mile lengths of natural surface roads which join for the south boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 105 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size criteria or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for WSA designation.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-313 Hagata
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inverted triangularly shaped unit is bounded by Horse Lake Road on the south and east; by Wood's Ranch Road, non-public land, and Cottonwood Springs Road on the north, and by Hagata Canyon Road and non-public land on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 9,470 acres of publicly owned land which encloses two non-public inholdings totaling 560 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit has a irregular configuration as a result of the non-public land cutting deeply into the unit's core. The southern half is two miles or less in width and the northern half varies from one to almost four miles wide. A moderately steep, north-south ridgeline with numerous steep drainages dominates the landscape. Vegetation is characterized by sagebrush, native grasses, and junipers. Aspen and riparian vegetation can be found in and near Cottonwood Canyon located in the northern tip of the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has several intrusions, most of which lie adjacent to the boundaries with the core being undisturbed. The unit should be considered natural.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit could provide some opportunities for solitude, however, not outstanding opportunities. The relatively small sized unit has mostly scattered to light vegetation cover with occasional small open shallow drainages and some short steep ones, none of which provide a significant physical barrier to keep users separated thus enahncing their opportunities for solitude. Cottonwood Canyon could provide only limited solitude due to its small size, openness and light vegetation cover. Additionally, a combination of the above limiting factors and the unit's size and irregular configuration limits the units inherent capability to provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received addressed a number of issues. A proposed pipeline was discussed which is not an inventory consideration; wilderness complex was supported which is a Study Phase consideration; the unit was supported as a non-WSA; and the unit, along with numerous other units, was mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to this unit's wilderness characteristics. Three comments addressed the unit's outstanding opportunities characteristics providing information that has been previously considered. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-313A Barron
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the west by California Highway 139, non-public lands on the south, the old Fredonyer Peak Road on the north, and Hagata Canyon Road and non-public land on the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 5,280 acres of public land entirely under Bureau management.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The southeast portion of the unit has a few small peaks. Progressing northward, the terrain slopes gently upward to a 6,000 foot peak near the northern boundary. Sagebrush, low desert shrubs, juniper, and native grasses and forbs typify the vegetative cover, with scattered yellow pine found at the higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this unit has retained a natural character. The 4 pit reservoirs and 7 miles of ways all have a low intrusive impact.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are only average due to the lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Users would be in repeated exposure to the sights and sounds of others. The small size combined with the irregular configuration of the boundaries limits the possibilities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationales for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-313B Hagata (A)
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southern border is formed by Cottonwood Canyon Road, the east by Cottonwood Spring Road, the north by non-public lands, and the west by an extension of Hagata Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire 2,030 acre unit is under public ownership. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-402 Doyle-Plumas
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area has been renumbered. It is the westernmost of two units labeled CA-202-403 on the February 1979 maps. This unit is bounded on the west by a bladed access road, on the north by Otis Canyon Road, on the east by contiguous non-public lands, and on the south by Meadow View Guard Station Road. Non-public lands also exist on the western side.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The approximately 2,100 acres of public land in this unit are adjacent to U. S. Forest Service land (Plumas National Forest) that together would form a unit over 5,000 acres in size. The Forest Service land was judged to not possess wilderness characteristics, however.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of a single long, narrow undulating ridgeline approximately 7 miles in length and less than 2 miles in width. A number of small, funnel shaped peaks protrude from the crest. Slopes leading to the ridge are steep with a number of short, narrow, and deep canyons cutting into them. Vegetation is yellow pine forest with scattered sagebrush meadows.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Most of the area has retained its primeval character. Several vehicular routes and bladed fencelines intrude a short distance into the unit; however, they have little impact on the natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The general openness of the slopes, rim area and meadows provide little opportunity for solitude. The unit's size, narrowness, and long, steep, and mostly unbroken slope would highly limit opportunities for diverse forms of recreation, resulting in a concentration of users in the few desirable locations. The area would not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter noted that the unit was contiguous to a Forest Service roadless area, and that coordination between BLM and Forest Service was appropriate. Support of the Bureau's non-WSA recommendation was also indicated. The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to this unit. The unit's non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-403 Fort Sage Mountains
(Map 02-E)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is located east of Doyle, California, overlaping on the east lands administered by Carson City District BLM, Nevada. This narrative will address only those lands located within the Susanville District. Boundaries include Long Valley Road to the south, an unimproved access road along the western limits, with non-public lands forming the northern boundary and portions of other boundaries. This unit is the easternmost of two areas labeled CA-020-403 on the February 1979 maps.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Carson City District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-602 Dodge
(Map 02-H and 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is entirely within the State of California. The borders include the Red Rock Valley Road to the north, the Tuledad-Dodge Reservoir Road to the east, and non-public land along the south, west, and portions of the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 23,590 acres of publicly owned land enclosing about 1,000 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The overall landscape encompasses rocky, hilly, and juniper covered slopes, with little elevation variation. The mountain tops tend to flatten out, with some rocky ridgelines present. The Red Rock Creek drainage provides the steepest terrain, becoming moderately rugged when exiting Dodge Reservoir. Juniper covers the entire unit, intermixed with big sage, mountain mahogany, and grasses. The northern drainages have small stans of aspen. The three man-made reservoirs have extremely fluctuating waterlevels due to drawing water for irrigation purposes. Dunn Reservoir is completely dry presently and Union Reservoir contains a little water. Dodge Reservoir, normally a year-round reservoir, is extremely low this year.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern half has been impacted by man's activities in the form of a bulldozed fence-line, numerous miles of ways, and water developments. The southern half has generally retained its natural character. Overall, the unit has remained in a natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit could provide a sense of solitude merely due to the vegetative screening afforded by the tree cover, but the lack of elevation variation and topographic diversity restricts the opportunities for solitude. The bodies of water could enhance opportunities for primitive types of recreation but the fact that two of them are mostly seasonal without a fishery or a significant aquatic habitat and the third one is mostly private land and tangent to a well traveled road providing access to a developed and well used campground located on the shore of the reservoir negates the outstanding consideration.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the unit as meeting the solitude requirement due to the presence of a relatively dense vegetative cover which had been recognized and considered previously in the inventory. Another noted that despite the facts the reservoirs are man-made and are sustained by annual stocking, the unit can still be considered for wilderness consideration because the Wilderness Act of 1964 allows for such activities. This fact has been considered however, the unit is still determined to lack the Outstanding Opportunities requirement. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-603 Cottonwood Mountains
(Map 02-H and 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bordered on the north by Tuledad Canyon Road, on the west by Dodge Reservoir Road, on the south by Buckhorn and the Willow Lake-Gardner Roads, and on the east by Worland Ranch Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 52,970 acres of contiguous, roadless public land enclosing 19 parcels of non-public land totaling about 3,000 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The relief present is semi-rugged in character and dominated by the Cottonwood Mountains in the western and central portions. The eastern portion consists of a high mountain desert with the deep and precipitous Express Canyon bisecting it. Several playas are found in the southwest along numerous drainages and draws. The overall vegetative diversity is exampled by annual and perennial grasslands, big and low sagebrush, juniper and mountain mahogany. The dominant vegetation is sage and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit's once natural condition has been significantly impacted by the large number and clustering of man-made impacts. Up almost every draw and drainage and across flats and gentle to steep slopes are vehicle tracks of varying degrees. Additionally there are over 23 range water developments mostly medium sized dam-reservoirs, over 11 miles of bulldozed fencelines and numerous other fencelines. Due to the sheer number of intrusions, the rocky nature of the area and the degrees of impacts, rehabilitation either by hand labor or natural process is not practical.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are prominent in the east and west sections of the unit. Here plateaus, and the numerous ridges and peak areas, especially in the Cottonwood Mountains, provide excellent possibilities for seclusion. Outstanding recreational opportunities correspond with solitude. The rugged and varied terrain of the Cottonwood Mountains and Express Canyon offer a challenge to the outdoor adventurer. However, these elements would be achieved in a unnatural environment.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The only comment received asked if boundary adjustments or passage of time had been considered in the inventory phase. Both were considered. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-604 Buckhorn
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Buckhorn Road, the western boundary is Horne Ranch Road, the southern boundary is Painter Ranch Road, and the east boundary is an unnamed natural surfaced route. All boundaries are also partially comprised of non-public lands. An instant study area, the 640 acre Bitterbrush Natural Area, is enclosed by the boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 19,910 acres of public land encompassing about 1,400 acres of non-public land in 8 scattered parcels.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Painter Creek, a perennial stream, bisects the unit east to west. South of the creek is flat to gentle sloping, sagebrush covered land with scattered juniper. North of the creek is a broad mountain with a gradual slope and dense juniper vegetation, and the steeper areas of Buckhorn Canyon. Bitterbrush vegetation is found in varying densities in the northern portions. Elevation ranges from 5,900 feet to 6,568 feet at Button Mountain summit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprints of man's work appreciably nullifies the area's primeval character. Numerous vehicle trails (ways) criss-cross the entire area, providing access to undeveloped private land and isolated reservoirs supporting livestock grazing within the roadless area. Other elements degrading naturalness include two roads cutting into the area and fencelines.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are offered in small areas around Button Mountain and Buckhorn Canyon; however, they cannot be considered exceptional because of the limited size. The gentle, sloping, sagebrush-covered terrain, with some scattered juniper vegetation surrounding the mountain and canyon, provides little sense of seclusion. Primitive recreation opportunities available are not special due to limited diverse features that would provide a foundation for such activities. None of the area including the instant study area qualifies as a wilderness study area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-605 Observation
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are Ramhorn Springs Road in the south, Big Springs-Horne Ranch Road in the east, Buckhorn Road in the north, and the Summit Springs access road and private land in the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 17,330 acres of contiguous, roadless public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this unit radiates from two peaks within the boundaries - Observation Peak (7,964 feet) and Spanish Springs Peak (7,626 feet). Elevation of the perimeter varies between 5,000 feet and 5,400 feet. Upper portions of the two peaks are very steep. Drainages are shallow and not strongly defined. Vegetation is characterized by sagebrush-grass association and scattered stands of mountain mahogany and juniper of varying densities.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's influence within the unit is highly evident. A fire lookout is located at the summit of Observation Peak which is visible from much of the unit. Also within the unit are fencelines, ways, dead-ending roads, reservoirs, and a reseeding project of unnatural grasses on the southeast slope of Spanish Springs Peak which contrasts vividly with surrounding vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the uniformity of the terrain radiating from the peaks and the lack of any effective vegetative screening, this unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for either solitude or recreation. Furthermore, the system of intruding roads would expose the wilderness seeker to vehicle traffic and confine movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-605A Observation (A)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are the Horne Ranch Road on the north and northeast, the old Observation Peak Road on the southeast, and the Observation Peak Road on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains less than 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless public land (2,590 acres) and does not meet any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-605B Spanish Springs
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are the Post Camp Road in the south, private land all along the west, private land in the north, and private land and the Spanish Peak Road in the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The approximately 7,760 acre unit is entirely under public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Spanish Springs Peak, though just outside the eastern boundary, is the dominating topographical influence on this unit. Slope is relatively uniform throughout the unit but moderate drainages serve to break up the landscape somewhat in the northwest. Elevations range from 5,300 feet in the northwest to 7,570 feet in the east central portion. Vegetation at higher elevations is a mix of curlleaf mahogany and sagebrush-grass; at lower elevations sagebrush-grass and scattered junipers predominate. Over half of the unit is between one and two miles in width with a maximum of three miles.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are many man-made intrusions in this unit that are visible from most locations, including 1 mile of telephone and powerlines, 6 miles of dozed fenceline, 12 miles of ways, and 8 reservoirs of both dam- and pit-type.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The narrowness and configuration of the unit restricts movement to a twisting corridor between 1 and 3 miles wide. Additionally, the uniform slopes of the peak, low vegetation, extremely small size of the area, and the lack of unusual natural features all contribute to the absence of outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-606 Big Springs
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by improved roads except the northwest portion of the unit which is bounded by non-public land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire approximately 9,000 acre unit is in public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The southern part of the unit is of consistent, gently sloping (south to southeast aspect) terrain. The northern part includes small knobs with moderately steep slopes. Vegetation is low sage-grasses in the south and low sage-scattered juniper in the north.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has little intrusive features. Approximately three miles of ways exist but are a minor impact. There is a small dam-type reservoir in the eastern section, but it has revegetated and is low profiled. Naturalness has prevailed.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Little or no opportunities for solitude exist due to lack of varies topography or vegetative screening. The viewshed is unimpeded. This lack of physical features, combined with the unit's small size, also restricts primitive recreational opportunities. The area lacks a foundation for even commonplace opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment was made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-608 Shinn Peaks
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area is bounded by Rye Patch Canyon, Post Camp Roads and private lands on the north, on the west by a telephone line right-of-way maintenance road and private land; Shinn Mountain Road and private holdings create the eastern and southern bounds, respectively.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 28,670 acres of public land surrounding about 1,200 acres of non-public land in nine scattered parcels.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Located centrally are four closely grouped prominent peaks over 7,000 feet in elevation. The mountain slopes and lava rock canyons surrounding the volcanic shaped peaks are somewhat steep and rugged. Sagebrush predominates with scattered ditches of mahogany, cottonwood, and aspen vegetation. A dense juniper stand exist along the western third of the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northeastern 40 percent of the unit has not retained its naturalness due to the large concentration of fencelines, ways, a dead-end road and dam-type reservoirs. Additionally, the area was seeded with crested wheatgrass, a non-native grass. The portion lying south of the Shinn Mountains has retained its natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Limited opportunities for solitude exist in the southern half due to the lack of strong topographic and vegetative features that would keep visitors separated from one another. These same limiting factors diminish the area's capability for primitive recreation potential. The numerous man-made features throughout the remainder of the unit seriously inhibit a sense of solitude and confine free movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment received addressed a proposed pipeline which is a Study Phase consideration, not an inventory consideration. A number of comments supported the unit as part of a WSA complex which is also a Study Phase consideration. A few comments supported the unit as meeting the Outstanding Opportunities requirement due to its size, the presence of juniper and deciduous trees and steep slopes all of which had been considered in making the preliminary recommendation. The unit as well as numerous other units was also mentioned in a general letter addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comments was made about this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-609 Five Springs
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located both in the States of California and Nevada, the unit is mostly bounded on two sides by maintained dirt roads used to support grazing operations, on a third side by a county road, and on the fourth by private land. Private land also constitutes a small portion of the north and south boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 47,160 acres of public land. It surrounds about 1,880 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Five Spring Mountains, Cherry Mountain and Rush Creek Mountains are located within the unit. The mountainous unit is best described as a gently to moderately steep undulating landscape without a prominent landmark. Stony and Rush Creek are mostly perennial creeks originating within the unit. During drought years Rush Creeks usually runs no water while Stony Creek will run a little water. Riparian vegetation is scarce in Rush Creek and slight to moderate density in Stony. Other than the slight to moderate density of mostly willow vegetation in the creek bottoms, vegetation is limited to sagebrush and associated shrubs and grasses. The moderate number of shallow drainages form a few open shallow canyons.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Small areas along the periphery have received minor impact by man's activities, but the bulk of the unit, especially the interior, has retained its natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does provide some opportunities for these wilderness elements but not outstanding opportunities. The generally undulating terrain does not possess topographic or vegetative barriers that increase visitors opportunities for solitude. The canyons radiating from the mountainous landscape are few in number, small in size, shallow in depth and do not provide physical barriers that would enable visitors to stay removed from one another. The mountains are relatively of moderate relief, easily achieved and without vegetative screening; they also do not provide much of a barrier to increase ones chances to stay removed from other visitors within the unit. The somewhat perennial streams do not support a fisheries and possess limited opportunities for aquatic life studies. The mountains and associated canyons are not rich in wildlife including raptors and provide only commonplace opportunities for hiking, camping, and horseback riding. An archaeological random sample inventory revealed no unusual number of sites or types of sites that are not found throughout much of the immediate and distant Cal-Neva Planning Unit. Scenery within the unit is mostly redundant and described as somewhat drab. The area does not fullfill this wilderness criteria requirement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments both supported and conflicted with the non-WSA recommendation. Information received supporting the unit as meeting wilderness criteria include the large size, lack of visitation, proximity to other roadless areas, abundant wildlife, scenic qualities, archaeological values, varied topography and natural screening. These facts had been considered previously and were reconsidered again in making a final designation for the unit. A large number of letters support the unit as part of a WSA complex which is a Study Phase consideration along with the proposed pipeline addressed. Comments supporting the non-WSA recommendation merely stated that point. A few comments make specific reference to a couple of the roads they felt did not meet road criteria. Further field examination verified that one did and one did not meet road criteria; the appropriate change has been made in the files and on the maps. The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no information is provided about the units wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-610 Deep Cut
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on all sides by well maintained roads. Smoke Creek Ranch Road, a county maintained road, forms the southern boundary and the remaining boundaries are formed by the Deep Cut and Five Spring Roads, both dirt type.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,000 acres of public land and encloses a 640 acre non-public inholding.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is flat to rolling low sagebrush-covered terrain except for Deep Cut Canyon, located in the northeast corner of the unit and extending approximately ½ mile in length. The prominent land feature is a solo juniper tree located in the center of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit is mostly natural in character. Two reservoirs are located on the periphery but they have a minimal impact on naturalness. A road, one mile in length, cuts into the unit and dead ends with little impact on naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Lack of topographic relief and variety and vegetative screening preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-611 Little Mud Flat
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit's boundaries are formed by Smoke Creek Ranch Road and private land in the north, Bruebeck Spring Road and private land in the east, the Southern Pacific Railroad and a buried telephone line right-of-way in the west, and Wendel Road in the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 14,700 acres of public land which encompasses about 1,160 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is in an irregular oval shape, approximately 7 miles along the north-south axis and 6 miles along east-west axis. Terrain varies from virtually flat land in the northern part at the 4,500 foot elevation to several small mountain peaks over 5,500 feet high in the southeastern portion. Vegetation is sagebrush associated type.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features present are of minor significance; most are located along the exterior of the unit. A major intrusion in the form of a 1.5-mile road leading to a spring, a water tank, and water troughs set in concrete exist in the southwestern portion of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Little opportunity for solitude exists as the topography lacks much variability and the vegetation consists mainly of low sage. This affords little screening and an unimpeded viewshed where visitors sights and sounds would be highly conspicuous to other visitors. The lack of variety in this unit will preclude significant primitive recreational opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A number of comments supported the unit as a WSA and part of a WSA complex with no information provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics. A proposed pipeline was addressed which is information that can be used in the Study Phase but not the inventory phase. A number of comments conflicted with the evaluation of Outstanding Opportunities but neither provided supporting information or mentioned information that had been previously considered such as the presence of wildlife and unoccupied open space. The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no information was provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-612 Skedaddle Mountain
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Non-public land forms portions of all boundaries. The southwest boundary is Wendel Road and a Department of Defense Military Withdrawal, the eastern boundary is Skedaddle Road. The Smoke Creek Road and an underground telephone cable right-of-way form the border on the north, and a natural surface road the western limit. A number of deadend roads cut deeply into the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 63,130 acres of contiguous public land encompassing about 3,780 acres of scattered non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The north, south, and east edges are open, sagebrush-covered flats developing to long toe slopes of the Skedaddles or shorter toe slopes of the Amedees, along with associated drainages and hills. The core area is dominated by rugged vertical cliffs and canyons, peaks, and basins of the Skedaddle and Amedee Mountains. The high Skedaddle elevations support scattered aspen groves and patches of large berry shrubs. The deep canyons support riparian vegetation (willows, wild rose, berry shrubs) and the basins small grass meadows. However, sagebrush and grass vegetation dominate the majority of the unit. Big Game, large and small raptors and other wildlife abound within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A large portion of the area has retained mostly a natural condition but a few areas have been significantly impacted by man's activities. Approximately 1,250 acres located in the southeast corner of the unit (between the east boundary of the unit and the east boundary of the Sierra Army Depot) is considered unnatural in character due to a number of bladed fire-breaks, ways and a garbage pit. Another 2,000 acres within the southwest corner of the unit are unnatural in character due to the presence of a large number of criss-crossing ways, mineral exploration pits, and a 60 acre gravel pit and access road. Another gravel pit and access roads located along the west boundary render another 200 acres unnatural. These unnatural areas are assessed to have little rehabilitation potential and are excluded from the WSA boundary as noted on the map. The remaining unit despite the presence of a number of man-made features is considered mostly natural; the intrusions are scattered and effectively screened by the extremely broken topography.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The units offers exceptional opportunities for solitude and a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreational pursuits. The numerous deep and rugged canyons associated with the rugged and steep mountain peaks provide numerous physical barriers to keep visitors separated and remote places for one to experience a feeling of loneliness. The moderate to dense riparian vegetation found in many of the deep canyons further increases visitors' opportunities to avoid visual contact with other visitors to the area. Exceptional opportunities for primitive recreational activities exist in the rugged diverse topography. Rock climbing-wall scaling from the bottoms of the deep canyons would be extremely challenging; natural history studies would be superior due to the presence of such diverse geology in conjunction with the rich wildlife and thich riparian vegetation located in a number of drainages.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based upon field examinations stemming from specific public comments, additional routes of travel have been assessed as meeting road criteria. The maps and files have been changed accordingly. Comments addressed a number of factors that are Study Phase considerations: private land, access needs for maintenance of range facilities, proposed pipelines, geothermal resource, explosions on the Sierra Depot, introduction of bighorn sheep, habitat for wildlife, buffer zones, value of the area for four-wheelers and rockhounds. Other comments mentioned the existence of numerous roads without identifying any particular routes that could be field checked. A large number of comments supported the WSA recommendation and favored restoring the original inventory unit boundary and a large number supported the unit as part of a WSA complex. The boundary has been readjusted to include the lower elevations of the unit. Almost the entire inventory unit including the gentle slopes, foothills and flats located along the east, north and west sides of the mountains are a continuation and an intergal part of the Skedaddle Mountain landform and should be evaluated in its entirety. The WSA designation is unchanged but the boundary has been adjusted.

CA-020-613 Flanigan
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, located in northwestern Nevada, is bounded on the southeast by the Southern Pacific Railroad, portions of the western border are formed by private land, with the remainder outlined by maintained roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 19,510 acre unit under public ownership encloses one 640 acre section of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the unit varies from a narrow range of steeply rising mountains to gently sloping hills in the remainder of the unit. The vegetation is of the sagebrush-rabbitbrush variety, with grassy areas scattered throughout the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features (intrusions) are found within the unit. The effect of these upon naturalness is insignificant since most of the intrusions are of low impact and are widely scattered.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Broad, open slopes rising to a crest and descending in a similar manner remain unbroken by drainages or vegetation throughout the unit. This allows for open viewsheds and little chance of avoiding the sight of other visitors. This same uniform terrain does not supply the base for primitive recreation activities, thereby limiting opportunities for non-mechanized forms of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments supported the unit, along with numerous other units, as a WSA complex which is a Study Phase consideration for individual units qualifying as a Wilderness Study Area. A road forming one of the boundaries was addressed as possibly a way but no information was provided as to the road not meeting road criteria. The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, but no specific comment was made to the units wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-614 Dry Valley
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Gerlach-Sand Pass Road forms the east and southeastern borders while the Dry Valley Road forms that on the west. The north and south boundaries are formed by the intersection of the formerly mentioned limitations.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire 26,420 acre unit is in public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

One mountain range approximately two miles in width runs the length of the unit, rising to 5,600 feet from a base elevation of 4,200 feet. Mostly flat, sagebrush-covered terrain surrounds this mountain range. Vegetation of the unit consists of sage and other low-lying shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its natural character. A cross-country motorcycle trail runs through the unit twice, but its impact is not significant.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The single, narrow ridgeline, broken only with shallow drainages, and the bordering open valley offer little in terms of providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The narrow shape of the unit would confine movement which would adversely effect both solitude and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments were received supporting the unit, along with numerous other units as a WSA complex which is a Study Phase consideration of individual units qualifying as a Wilderness Study Area. Other comments supported the unit as meeting the Outstanding Opportunities requirement for reasons such as seldom visited, natural history enjoyment, hiking and camping. Field examinations did not verify the unit as meeting the Outstanding Opportunities requirement. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-614A Dry Valley (A)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped unit is bounded on the west by the Dry Valley Road, on the south by Mott Ranch Road, on the southeast by non-public land, and on the northeast by the Sand Pass-Gerlach Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The small area, less than 800 acres, does not meet the 5,000 acre requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-615 Dry Valley Rim
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit boundary is formed on the east by the Lower Smoke Creek Road, the Dry Valley Road, and the Pipe Spring Road. The northern boundary is the SMoke Creek Ranch Road, and the boundary to the south is the Wendel Road. The Skedaddle Ranch Road forms the western boundary, with non-public holdings making up portions of all unit restraints.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The approximately 93,205 acre unit is in public ownership. It surrounds about 1,100 acres of non-public land in nine tracts varying in size from 40 to 320 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The elevations within the unit vary from 3,800 to 6,200 feet. At the higher elevations there are flottopped mountains with steep and abrupt rimrock walls on rocky, talus, sagebrush-covered slopes. Precipitous and deep rimrock on talus canyons are also common here, whereas they become more shallow and smooth-flowing at the lower elevations. An almost sheer 400 to 600 foot rimrock wall is located along the eastern boundary. Between this rock wall, which forms the topographical limits of the unit and the road is a distance of approximately ¼ mile. A wildfire burned this flat a number of years ago. The dominant vegetation throughout the unit is big and low sagebrush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of the unit is mostly natural in character. A few ways and reservoirs are scattered about the area from the foothills of the steep wall along the east boundary to the road forming the west boundary. They are engulfed by the area's large size and effectively screened by the broken topography. The flat along the east boundary is more impacted by roads deadending at the steep wall and fire suppression activities--catline--but not significantly enough to call it unnatural.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude exist but they are not outstanding. The flat ridgelines and mountains allow numerous viewsheds where the sights and sounds of other users would be very apparent. The rather conforming landscape does not enhance opportunities for primitive type recreation or provide the visitor with outstanding opportunities for solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments supported the unit, along with numerous other units, as a WSA complex which is a Study Phase consideration for individual units qualifying as a WSA. A proposed pipeline was also discussed which is also a Study Phase consideration. The unit, along with numerous other units, was mentioned in a general letter addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, but no specific comment is made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. A few comments specifically conflicted with the assessment of Outstanding Opportunities; the unit's diverse topography in conjunction with its extremely large size would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and that the numerous open viewsheds actually enhanced one's feeling of solitude due to the unit's expansiveness. After reviewing these facts, the Bureau is in agreement that the unit does meet the Outstanding Opportunities requirement for solitude. The entire unit designation is changed from non-WSA to WSA.

CA-020-616 Burro Mountain
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the north and east by Burro Mountain Road and a right-of-way for an underground telephone cable. The western and southern borders are formed by Smoke Creek Road and private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The approximately 8,900 acre unit is under public ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The broad conical shape of Burro Mountain, 5,900 feet in elevation, and an unnamed peak 5,603 feet in elevation, with their associated slopes are covered by medium density sagebrush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The only impact on the naturalness of this unit is a metal-post barbed-wire fence of about 1 mile. Otherwise, the unit is in a natural state.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's small size retards the area's inherent capabilities for providing better-than-average solitude. With approximately 75 percent of it being two miles in width, use would be confined and channeled, resulting in over-exposure of visitors to each other. The two non-complex and non-expansive mountains dominating the landscape would provide some opportunities for one to indulge in primitive forms of recreation, but not outstanding chances.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The only comment received addressed a proposed pipeline which is not an Inventory Phase consideration but a Study Phase one. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-617 Smoke Creek Desert Contiguous
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by a right-of-way for a buried telephone cable and on the west by the Sand Pass Gerlach Road and private land. The east and south boundaries are formed by the Susanville District boundary line which is the logical boundary separating an "initial-out" unit from this intensive inventory unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 7,370 acres of publicly owned land surrounding an 80 acre inholding.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the extreme western portion of the Smoke Creek Desert. This alkali soil desert supports widely scattered greasewood and shadscale vegetation. The area is mostly flat, with scattered sinks and a few small hills.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has not retained a natural character. Numerous ways intrude the area. In addition, recreational vehicle tracks are evident throughout a large portion of the roadless area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are limited by the areas small size, its lack of topographic or vegetative screening, and absence of diverse features that would provide a visitor with more than just an opportunity for recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The only comment received addressed a proposed pipeline which is a Study Phase consideration and not an inventory one. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-617A Smoke Creek Desert Contiguous (A)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the east by the Susanville District boundary; on the south by an underground cable right-of-way, and on the northwest by Gerlach-Sand Pass Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,275 acres of publicly owned land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size criteria or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-618 Poodle Mountain
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded in the west by the Buffalo Meadows Ranch access road (which goes north to Buckhorn Road) and Buffalo Meadow Road. The rest of the unit is bounded by the Susanville/Winnemucca Districts' administrative line with the roadless area continuing into the Winnemucca District.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors.

CA-020-619 Buffalo Hills
(Map 02-H and 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bordered primarily by public lands. Boundaries consist of the BLM Buckhorn Road on the north, the north fork of Buffalo Creek to Cedar Canyon Road on the east, the Buffalo Creek to Painter Flat Road on the south, and the Pilgrim Lake to Painter Flat Road on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 47,315 acres of contiguous public land which surrounds about 1,920 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is predominantly composed of a high upland volcanic plateau, cut on the east and south by the deep and rugged canyons of Buffalo Creek. The plateau is broken by numerous small hills, ridges, and rims. The main and middle forks of Buffalo Creek curve and isolate this unit on the south and east. Both forks of this perennial creek lie completely in the unit. Only a portion of the north fork lies within the unit. However, one of the most striking unit features is the 1,000 foot deep portion of the canyon. A unique geologic feature of the central portion of the unit is Hole-in-the-Ground. It is a mile-wide, circular caldera with a tributary to the main fork of Buffalo Creek bisecting it. The vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and grassed with an even scattering of juniper in the north and west. Riparian vegetation may be found along the forks of Buffalo Creek and around springs. There are four seasonal lakes in the northern half ranging in size from 40 to 100 acres.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural character of some of this unit has been substantially disturbed. The northern boundary has been moved south to the planning unit fenceline. This bladed fenceline, 10 miles long, is a major intrusion in the north. The lands now excluded are also of an unnatural character due to the borrow pits, an additional 3 miles of bladed fenceline, dam- and pit-type reservoirs, 4 miles of road, and 10 miles of ways. This unnatural area would require more than hand labor to restore it to a relatively natural condition. Man's imprint is present in the remaining roadless area; however, the unnatural features, including ways, reservoirs and fence, are widely scattered with good natural rehabilitation occurring.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation abound in this highly diverse unit. The canyons, mountains rims, and plateaus provide a maze of physical barriers and places for users to be removed from one another. The presence of scattered juniper vegetation further precludes long sight distances and man's movements. These same natural features are the foundation for primitive recreational opportunities which are further enhanced by the perennial streams and seasonal lakes.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based upon information provided in a comment and verification in a field examination, a previously identified way was determined to meet road criteria. The map and file has been changed accordingly. The route of travel providing access to Antelope Spring was not found to meet road criteria; it is still a way. Comments addressed a number of factors that are Study Phase considerations: access need to private land, future spring developments, a proposed pipeline, wild horse populations and management problems, air traffic, access roads for wildlife management, reduction in recreation days, value to rock hounds and four-wheelers, and a WSA complex. Study Phase information will be assessed during the Study Phase of the Wilderness Review Process. Comments were also received both supporting and conflicting with the WSA recommendation, however, most did not provide any information at all or referenced information such as springs and fences that had been previously considered. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-619A Twin Peaks
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the southwest by Smoke Creek Reservoir Road and non-public land, on the south by Burro Mountain Road and an underground cable, on the southeast by the Sand Pass-Gerlach Road, on the southeast by Buffalo Meadow Road, Parsnip Creek Road, and the Mixie Flat Road, and on the north by the Home Springs-Painter Flat Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 90,345 acres of public land encompassing about 2,370 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this unit encompasses many landform types. In the northwest are flatlands and low rolling hills with moderate drainages. Shinn Creek and Smoke Creek are perennial streams. Toward the east the landscape becomes extremely rugged with numerous canyons, draws, hills, and mountain peaks. The most outstanding features on the eastern side are Willow Creek and its canyon, Buffalo Creek and canyon, and Chimney Rock Creek and canyon. Plant life is mostly low sage, juniper and grasses. In some drainages, willow and aspen grow in meadowlands.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural character of the unit has been retained even though intrusions are present. This is because the majority of the ways, reservoirs, and fences are located near the periphery. Furthermore, they are dispersed throughout the unit so that the densities of the intrusions is very low for any particular area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The opportunity for recreation and solitude is outstanding. This unit has great diversity in landforms and large numbers of types. There are numerous canyons, draws, ridges, mountains, hills, and plateaus in this very expansive region where long site distances are restricted by topographic features. The topographic features would conceal a large number of users from one another. Unconfined movement is self-evident due to its natural state and large size. Primitive recreational opportunities, too, are unlimited in this large, diverse unit.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments addressed factors that are not inventory considerations, but the information will be useful during the Study Phase. Factors addressed included: WSA complex, value of area to four-wheelers and rock hounds, preservation of volcanic ecosystem, wildlife management needs, reduction in recreation days, wild horse management problems, private land access and irrigation needs, and outside influences--roads and sounds of trains. Two ways were addressed with supporting data as meeting road criteria, however, field examinations did not verify them as meeting all elements of road criteria. Some man-made intrusions (fences, reservoirs) were referenced as impairing the unit's natural condition and as being incompatible with potential wilderness. The impacts of the intrusion were previously assessed and determined not to be significant and the Wilderness Act recognizes certain man-made structures as acceptable in wilderness. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-619B Parsnip Creek
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This irregular triangle shaped unit is bordered by the Mixie Flat Road on the west, Parsnip Creek Road on the southeast, and the Buffalo Meadows Ranch to Painter Flat Ranch Road on the northeast. Small parcels of non-public land form portions of each boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 14,090 acres of public land which encloses about 160 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit's central and eastern portions are dominated by a high and broken plateau. The transition westward to the open Painter Flat and southwest to Mixie Flat is through low ridges. Further east the plateau is broken by several large and deep canyons of Parsnip Creek. The major vegetation is big sagebrush with alkaline tolerant shrubs in the flats.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit is very natural in character. It is intruded by approximately 5 miles of ways and 2 dam-type reservoirs. Cumulatively, these intrusions create a low unit impact.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for either of these wilderness elements. The majority of this unit is a flat, upland plateau with wide, open, sagebrush viewsheds that would disallow solitude by exposing visitors to one another. There are few places along the creeks for seclusion because most of the drainages are wide and shallow. Painter and Mixie Flats dominate a large part of the acreage in the area and do not provide a challenging terrain and would provide only limited occasions for any type of primitive recreation. Parsnip Creek is intermittent with little riparian vegetation and would not enhance the unit's overall limited opportunities for either of these considerations. The units relatively small size and configuration further limits outstanding opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Numerous comments support the unit as part of a WSA complex; however, no information was provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics. A WSA complex is a Study Phase consideration along with the preservation of ecosystem, wildlife management, vehicular access needs, and a possible ACEC designation. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-619C Salt Works
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by an underground telephone cable, on the southeast by the Gerlach-Sand Pass Road and a ranch access road, and on the southwest by Burro Mountain Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 6,240 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit's topography is dominated by a ridgeline in the western portion which is cut by numerous short, deep drainages. This ridgeline gradually slopes to the east, broken by low knolls, hills, and the drainages. Vegetation is low sage and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its natural character. There are several ways and gravel pits, all of which are along the eastern boundary and all of which have low impacts upon the unit's pristine nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's small size, mainly open terrain, and highly seasonal streams all contribute to negating any outstanding possibilities for either seclusion or recreation. The unit is barely 2½ miles long by 3 miles, therefore visitors would have a hard time avoiding one another.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and the rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-619D Buffalo Hills (D)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is shaped similar to an acute triangle. It is bounded on the north by an underground communication cable right-of-way, on the east by non-public lands, and on the south by Burro Mountain Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,296 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-619E Buffalo Hills (E)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is shaped similar to an acute triangle. It is bounded on the east by the Sand Creek-Gerlach Road, on the west by the Old Sand Pass-Gerlach Road, and on the north by an underground communications cable.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 470 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-619F Buffalo Hills (F)
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the south by the Sand Pass-Gerlach Road, on the west by a rancher access road, and by non-public lands on the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,116 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-620 Big Salt Brush
(Map 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is located along the extreme western edge of the Smoke Creek Desert. It is bordered on the west by the Sand Pass Gerlach Road, on the south by the Pyrmaid Lake Indian Reservation, on the north by private land, and on the east by public land recommended for "initial-out" by Nevada BLM.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains four separate roadless tracts ranging in size from less than 40 acres to approximately 900 acres and totaling less than 1,000 acres of public land. It does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land or meet any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for WSA identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-621 Stone Corral
(Map 02-H and 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit boundaries are the Buckhorn Road on the north, the Susanville District Line on the east and south, and the Buffalo Meadow Road on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending the decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the decision is made.

CA-020-703 S.O.B. Lake
(Map 02-H and 02-J)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This inventory unit is within the State of Nevada. The southern boundary is formed by the Buckhorn Road, a portion of the northern boundary is defined by private land, with the remainder of the borders formed by range facility service roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 8,000 acres of publicly owned land surrounding two 40 acre parcels of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The eastern third of the unit contains rugged topography, with Butte Peak the prominent landmark at 6,735 feet in elevation. West of Butte Peak the characteristic topography is a gentle, unbroken, low sagebrush-covered flat averaging 6,400 feet in elevation. Juniper and mountain mahogany is found in the eastern portion at the higher elevations. The rectangular shaped unit is approximately 5 miles by 3 miles.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A few man-made features, reservoirs, and ways can be found within the area, but they have little impact on naturalness because of their small size and location. The area has retained a natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

A very small area of the unit offers some opportunities for one to find solitude, where the plateaus and draws provide good topographic screening and the dense juniper stand further enhances a feeling of isolation. The majority of the area lacks topographic and vegetative features to provide even a marginal sense of seclusion. Primitive recreation opportunities exist, but one would be remiss to call them outstanding due to the lack of strong and diverse natural features.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general letter addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers, and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment is made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-704 Rye Patch Canyon
(Map 02-H)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The south and east boundaries are bounded by the Buckhorn Road and private land. Private property and two unnamed roads form the north and west boundaries of this roadless area lying due north of Burnt Lake.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire 15,540 acre unit is in public ownership and contains no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography varies from gently rolling hills to steep sloping bluffs and canyons, with the elevation ranging from 4,800 feet to 5,900 feet. A high plateau covers a large portion of the area. Vegetation ranges from low sage to juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Naturalness has been affected by a large number of small, man-made features that cumulatively makes a visitor well aware of man's control. Features include abandoned roads, ways, large reservoirs, and a diversion ditch. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The open nature of the topography with its ability to offer broad, open views of most of the unit and the inability of vegetation to counteract this precludes outstanding situations for solitude. The uniform nature of the terrain does not lend itself to strong chances for primitive forms of recreation, an exception being Rye Patch Canyon.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-704A Rye Patch Canyon (A)
(Map 02-H)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded by the Buckhorn Road in the east, by private land in the southeast. The rest of the unit is encompassed by a natural surface road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit's acreage--less than 640 acres--is in public ownership. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered as a Wilderness Study Area.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-705 Tuledad
(Map 02-H and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, located in both California and Nevada, is bordered on the south and southeast by the Tuledad Road, on the east by private land and Nevada Highway 81, on the north by private land, and on the west by Bare Creek Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public land totals approximately 31,220 acres which encompasses 5 non-public inholdings totaling 800 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Characteristic landscape is rolling hills on the north, south, and east edges that climb to higher ridges surrounding tabletop mountains in the interior. Elevations range from 4,700 feet to 6,900 feet. Vegetation of the area is characterized by sagebrush with a scattering of juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features are obvious within the western half of the unit. The 16 miles of ways, 6 miles of roads, and 6 pit-type reservoirs, 5 being 100 feet by 100 feet, have a significant impact on naturalness. The eastern half of the unit has retained its natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunity for solitude is limited in the unit. The rolling hills with broad, open drainages lacking vegetative screening provides little relief for a visitor to find seclusion. Additionally, the road which cuts deep into the interior would expose visitors to man's activities. Outstanding chances for primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not prevail in the rolling hills and shallow dry drainage.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general letter addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units. However, no specific comment addresses the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-705A Tuledad (A)
(Map 02-H)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

A continuous circular access road forms the boundary of this unit within the confinements of inventory unit 705. The road provides access to five large pit reservoirs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 1,245 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-706 Silver Creek
(Map 02-H)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The irregular shaped unit is located on the lower eastern slopes of the Warner Mountains. Non-public lands form partial boundaries on all sides of this unit. The Bare Creek Road forms the southeast border and the Snake Lake Road forms the northeast border. The west border is predominately non-public lands and the road to Newland Meadows.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists entirely of public land totaling about 6,430 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A steeply rising mountain range runs the length of the unit, broken by canyons and meadows in the southern portion. Topographical diversity is enhanced by elevation changes from 5,200 feet to 6,700 feet. Sagebrush dominates the lower elevations with juniper and mountain mahogany dominating the higher elevations. The configuration of this unit is long and narrow. Its widest point is 2 miles across, and it averages only 1.5 miles.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Three ways and a dam reservoir are the only man-made features within the unit. None of these intrusions have a significant impact upon naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreational activities are negated by the unit's configuration, small size, and narrowness. Use would be confined and channeled with visitors in constant exposure to one another.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit, along with numerous other units, is mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, but no specific comment is made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-708 South Warner Contiguous
(Map 02-G and 02-H)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

All of the parcels' western boundaries and some southern boundaries are the Modoc National Forest's South Warner Wilderness Area. Other boundaries are determined by non-public lands and by roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is comprised of nine separate parcels totaling approximately 4,330 acres of public land. Even though the unit does not meet the minimum 5,000 acre size requirement, it does meet one of the exemptions to the size requirement to be considered for WSA identification; it is contiguous with the South Warner Wilderness Area, a designated wilderness area managed by the USFS.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The nine parcels which make up this unit are widely separated along 18 miles of the east side of the Warner Mountains. However, they share similar environmental features. The general area is a steep uplifted fault which rises abruptly from the Surprise Valley. Annual and perennial streams have eroded the mountain sides into shallow drainages and deep canyons. Elevations within the unit range from 4,600 feet to 6,700 feet. Vegetation types run the gamut: grasses and low sage on the lower slopes; juniper, fir and ponderosa pine at higher elevations; and willow, alder and other riparian types along the streams.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

No man-made intrusions exist in this unit as determined by the intensive inventory.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The parcels themselves lack size to provide these wilderness elements but because of their associations with the South Warner Wilderness Area, they would meet this requirement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments were received supporting the unit's WSA recommendation and a few comments opposing it. The unit's geothermal resource potential was also mentioned which is a Study Phase consideration. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-802 South Duck Flat
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is roughly triangular in shape, extending approximately five miles in length in length and varying in width from one-quarter to two miles. The western boundary is Nevada State Highway 81. The eastern boundary is a dirt road used by the local ranchers. The southern boundary is formed by private lands adjacent to Nevada Highway 81 where it turns east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is comprised of approximately 5,900 acres of public land and contains no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is predominantly gently sloping to flat in the northern end broken by one small knoll. The southern end is comprised of a low rounded hill that slopes off gently on all sides. The drainage is by numerous shallow, dry washes that are in the bottom of gentle swales. Vegetation consists of typical Great Basin sagebrush with big sagebrush and other dominant species. Associated with the shrubs are scattered grasses and annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is essentially natural in character. There are two borrow pits in the area each approximately one-quarter mile in from Nevada Highway 81.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited due to the gently sloping nature of the terrain and lack of vegetation screening. Visitors to the area could easily see one another or a road bounding the area from practically anywhere in the unit. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited by the lack of topographical diversity, the low-growing vegetation, and the unit's small size.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit received comments upon the outstanding opportunities due to geographic location and lack of visitation. This was considered in the inventory. The unit's non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-803 North Duck Flat
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located on the east side of Duck Lake. It is triangular in shape, and approximately two miles in width at the widest point. The western boundary is Nevada State Highway 81. The northern boundary is the Lost Creek Road, the southern boundary is a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 5,200 acres of public land and encloses no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is comprised of very gently sloping to flat terrain. Lost Creek, a shallow wash, bisects the unit from east to west. The southern portion of the area has several small shallow washes that drain to the west. Lost Creek and the other washes only have water for a short period during the spring while the snow pack melts and right after periods of heavy rain. The washes do not support riparian vegetation. The vegetation is typical Great Basin sagebrush with big sage being the dominant species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area remains in essentially natural condition. At the northern end of the unit a road intrudes approximately one-half mile into the unit. It leads to Cherry Well, developed for stock watering with a windmill. There is a corral located immediately adjacent to Lost Creek Road and a small borrow pit immediately adjacent to Nevada Highway 81.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the open, gently sloping to flat topography and the lack of vegetation screening. Unconfined recreation is also non-existent due to openness and low type vegetation, giving a visitor an impression of a small, confined area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The unit received comments supporting the Outstanding Opportunities due to geographic location, and lack of visitation. These was considered in the inventory. The unit's non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-804 Hays Range
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Hays Canyon Road is the northern boundary of this unit. Non-public land and an access road constitute the eastern border, while Nevada Highway 81, private land, and an unimproved road form the western perimeter. A portion of the Wall Canyon Road and another unimproved road complete the unit in the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 44,700 acres of public land and encloses no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Steep bluffs form the majority of the western edge of the unit while gentler slopes are found on the south and east. Canyons and lesser drainages are found along the eastern slopes. Low shrubs, grasses, and scattered stands of juniper comprise the vegetative component of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern third and the east half has not retained its once natural landscape. Bulldozed fencelines, range facilities, vehicle trails, and a road have significantly altered the land's character. The rest of the roadless area has retained naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The portion of the roadless area retaining a natural landscape could not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation due to a mostly conforming flat terrain and its narrowness (less than two miles before a extremely steep cliff along the western edge limits travel). The portion of the unit determined to be unnatural could not provide an exceptional occurrence for solitude or primitive recreation because of man's alteration landscape.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter was in general support of the unit for WSA identification without providing any information about wilderness characteristics. Another commenter supported multiple use management and the need for private landowners to have access. These are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-805 Wall Canyon
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by the Coyote Springs Road; on the west by Pole Camp Road; on the southeast by Nolan Ranch Road, and on the east by Pinto Springs Road. Beyond these boundaries non-public lands comprise 73 percent of all borders.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 45,790 acres of non-public land which surrounds four parcels of non-public land totaling 280 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a rugged, semi-mountainous area with precipitous ridges, drainages, canyons, and slopes. The most prominent feature within the area is Wall Canyon, a deep rocky gorge in the southeastern section of the unit. The remainder of the region is a high elevation mountainous region with a variety of sharply contrasting topographical and vegetational features. The eastern half of the unit is dominated by sagebrush association, while the western half has sage with juniper, mahogany, and aspen vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The major intrusion of this unit is bladed fencelines which trisect the area. However, the construction is many years old and vegetation regrowth and topographic variety have greatly minimized the impact. Other man-made features include a few small reservoirs and vehicular routes which are reverting to a natural condition and are well screened by the unit's vegetative and topographic features. There are 3 ways which lead to and/or along portions of the fenceline which are also of low impact. The 4 dam and 5 pit reservoirs cumulatively have a low to moderate impact on this well-screened unit. Overall, the unit maintains its natural character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This unit provides excellent land and vegetative forms for outstanding recreation and solitude opportunities. The contrasting features of prominent peaks, deep drainages, precipitous canyons, and rocky ridges, along with sagebrush, juniper, mahogany, and aspen cover create a challenging recreational atmosphere and many places for one to stay removed from the sights or sounds of other visitors.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based upon information received in comments, further field examinations verified that two "ways" did meet road criteria and two others did not. Approximately 1,770 acres are excluded from the potential WSA boundary due to one of the road determinations which form a new inventory unit, CA-020-805A. The changes have been noted on the maps and in the files. Private land, access needs, management problems, concerns for non-wilderness users, and maintenance needs for range facilities are Study Phase consideration, not inventory ones. A couple general comments address the existence of man-made features which should render the unit as unnatural however, no specific information was provided about any particular intrusion or location. The known intrusions were considered previously and determined not to have a significant impact on the unit's natural condition due to their location and rehabilitation potential. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-805A Wall Canyon (A)
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Rancher access roads form the northern and eastern boundaries of this unit. Private land forms the western and southern boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 1,770 acres of public land and no non-public inholdings. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be condisered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-806 Black Rock
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit was renumbered. On the February 1979 maps it was the westernmost of two sections labeled CA-020-808. The original northern boundary was found not to be a road thereby combining this unit with the northernmost of two sections of unit CA-020-817 to form unit CA-020-806. The eastern border is formed by a high tension powerline and its associated road. An irregular network of private land forms a portion of the northwest border, with gravel surfaced roads forming the remainder of the western side.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 15,800 acres of public land and encloses 40 acres of non-public land in one inholding.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominant feature of this unit is a north-south running ridge through the center of the unit. Numerous drainages are found throughout the area. Most of these are open and shallow and break up the broad slopes only moderately. Elevation varies from 5,600 feet to 6,400 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area as a whole contains very few intrusions and retains its naturalness. The extreme southern portion of the unit has been affected to the point of being unnatural. A flat area of about 2.5 sections contains fences, ways, wells, stock tanks, and a high contrast seeding. This area would also be visible from numerous points along the ridge. The powerline along the eastern border might exert an emotional impact upon visitors within the unit due to it's visibility from various points within.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The gentle nature of the mountains, drainages, and valleys do not offer the screening necessary to avoid the sights of others within the area. This terrain does not supply the challenge nor maintain the visual interest necessary to offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter supported the area as a WSA but no inventory data was submitted. Another commenter disagreed with the boundary powerline location on the public map. The powerline's right-of-way has been acknowledged as the east boundary. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-808 Hart Camp
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit consists of the easternmost of two units labeled CA-020-808 on the February 1979 maps. The north, west, and south boundaries are formed by dirt surface roads and private lands, and the east border by Nevada Highway 34.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 5,855 acres of public land enclosing no non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Elevations in this unit range from about 5,600 feet in the south to three peaks in the central portion at approximately 6,400 feet. Central and southern portions have canyons with occasional rimrock areas. The northern portion is mainly gently sloping terrain. The vegetation is mainly sagebrush with traces of other low desert shrubs, grasses, and forbs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The perimeter has intrusions in the form of reservoirs, livestock watering tanks, ways, and fenceline. However, the interior is primeval in condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The small size and narrow unit provides little opportunity for a person to avoid the sight or sounds of other people in the area. The same limiting factors preclude the area from providing outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation. Use would occur in a very confined area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed the presence of roads along the unit's boundary and the existence of private land. The referenced roads are the unit boundaries (considered outside the area) and their is no private land within the unit. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-809 Findman Springs
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries for this triangular shaped unit are Wall Canyon Road on the south, the Hart Camp Road on the northwest, Nevada Highway 34 on the northeast. Non-public properties make-up parts of the southern and northeastern boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,800 acres of public land and one non-public inholding of 40 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is typified by relatively gentle slopes around the perimeter of the unit with rimrock, low bluffs, and small peaks toward the interior. Elevations range between 5,400 feet at the exterior to 6,800 feet in the interior. Vegetation is almost exclusively sages and other desert plants.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been impacted by man's activities. Two bulldozed fencelines bisect the area and a number of roads and ways inject into the core of the unit. Naturalness is further impaired by a number of developed springs and man-made reservoirs. The unit has not retained a natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are severely lacking due to the area's inherent natural features. The low sagebrush vegetation and generally low relief topography does not provide sufficient screening to afford users the likelihood of avoiding evidence of man's presence. Exceptional primitive recreational opportunities are not available in the low hills, broad drainages, and ridges.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter addressed the existence of a powerline crossing the unit's borders. Inventory data and maps indicate the unit as being removed from the powerline. Another commenter supported non-WSA designation and access needs of private landowners which is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-810 Little Mahogany
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by Franks Road on the east, Nevada State Highway 34 on the west, the Paso Springs Roads forms the northern boundary, and the southern line is the road to Weiner Springs. Private land also forms a boundary on all sides.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 8,700 acres of public land and encloses about 320 acres of non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Little Mahogany Mountain, elevation 6,717 feet, forms the center of the unit with the area sloping downward from this feature and averaging 5,700 feet in elevation. Numerous shallow drainage courses fan out from the mountain summit to the unit's periphery. Vegetation is big sagebrush-grass association with intermittent low sage.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made improvements are conspicuous. Numerous range facilities have been built in support of livestock grazing occurring in the area. The numerous pit reservoirs, spring developments, livestock control fences, and vehicular trails associated with the facilities render the area unnatural in character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for one to find remoteness from man's presence are not available. Solitude is minimal through the sagebrush vegetation and the shallow drainages. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited by the lack of varied topography and the density of man-made improvements upon the landscape.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The one commenter supported the non-WSA recommendation. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-811 Paso Springs
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded in the west and northwest by the Nellie Springs-Indian Springs Road, in the east by Frank's Road, in the south by the Paso Springs Road. Non-public lands form a portion of the western boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,500 acres of public land and has no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The greatest portion of this unit is composed of a low lying plateau and the surrounding gradual up slope leading to the plateau. The plateau is cut with a number of small drainages and rocky outcroppings which are of small relief. The vegetation in the unit is composed of sagebrush and other desert shrubs. Elevation ranges from 5,800 feet to 5,900 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area is natural in character. The only major intrusion is a widely excavated mining area in the northeastern corner of the unit. Beyond the former there are two fencelines and several water developments which are on the edge of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The general terrain, topographic layout, and vegetative associations of this unit preclude outstanding opportunities for these elements. The gradual rise of the land, the narrow slight drainages, and plateau effect of the unit limits occasions for a sense of aloneness. Chances for primitive types of recreation are not readily available on such non-challenging landforms.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The one commenter supported the non-WSA recommendation. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-812 Hog Ranch Rim
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit boundaries are Nevada Highway 34 on the north, Lost Creek Road on the west, on the east is the Little Hog Ranch Creek Road, and on the south the Hog Ranch Mountain Road. Non-public properties border parts of the northern and southern boundaries. This unit is the easternmost of two units with this number on the February 1979 maps.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 8,700 acres of public land with no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography in this unit is typified by a low, sagebrush plain which becomes a series of low rolling hills which gradually increase their slope. This series of rolling hills gives way to a semi-mountainous region with steep, rocky, precipitous drainages and ridges. The vegetation of the area is typically sagebrush and other high plains desert plants.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained a natural character. The few impacts by man, a few short ways, are absorbed well by the landscape.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The terrain, topographic layout, and vegetative screening of this unit preclude outstanding opportunities for these elements. The majority of the area contains rolling hills, plains, and other undistinguished characters which do not abet wilderness experiences. The plains and rolling hills lack physical barriers to separate users and the low profiled mountains and drainages lack definition to offer outstanding occurrences for solitude. Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities are restricted by the lack of an expanse of diverse topographic features associated with primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One commenter supported the area's wilderness characteristics but none were specifically mentioned. Another writer mentioned a powerline in the unit's vicinity; however, inventory data and maps indicate the powerline as being a distance from this unit. A third commenter felt that outside influence negated opportunities for a wilderness experience. This is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-813 Hog Ranch Mountain
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are the Hog Ranch Creek Road on the north, the Hog Ranch Mountain access road on the east and the Leadville Road on the south and west. Non-public land also forms portions of the north and southwest boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 11,336 acres of publicly owned land which surrounds one 40 acre tract of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit's topography consists of a ridgeline in the east which rapidly drops into a large plain. The various features present in the unit include numerous drainages, which are shallow and open, and a few non-expansive ridgelines and knolls.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western 20 percent of the area is scarred with man's work, numerous ways are apparent from vehicular travel. The remaining portions of the area have retained their primeval character, although a 2.5 mile road cuts deeply into the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area lacks size and topographic features to provide exceptional opportunities for solitude. Its prevailing open character affords little seclusion. The uniform topography and the road cutting into the heart of the area precludes premium primitive and unconfined types of recreation opportunities. The public land under Susanville's administration does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments received address mineral potential, private land within the unit and dust and noise impacting the area from boundary roads. All of these factors are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-813A Hog Ranch Mountain (A)
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are Nevada Highway 34 on the north and east and an improved rancher access road on the south and west. Non-public properties exist along the north and south boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Review Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-813B Hog Ranch Mountain (B)
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this unit are Nevada Highway 34 and the Swingle Ranch Road on the east, the Leadville Road on the south, and the Hog Ranch Mountain Access Road and the Hog Ranch Creek Road on the west. Non-public lands constitute a portion of all boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Review Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-814 Cottonwood Canyon
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The west boundary is formed by a powerline right-of-way, the north boundary is the Wall Canyon Road, the southern boundary is the Talus Spring and Lost Creek Roads, and the eastern boundary is Nevada Highway 34. Non-public land forms portions of all boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 41,200 acre unit is publicly owned land that surrounds 1,520 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The eastern half consists of low hills associated with a number of shallow drainages and flats. Elevation varies from 5,300 feet to 6,000 feet. The western half is characterized by steep slopes with occasional jagged rock outcrops, with elevations up to 6,400 feet. Sagebrush and low desert shrubs is the dominant vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern and western thirds of the area have an unnatural landscape. Numerous ways, 13 miles of bulldozed fenceline, stock tanks, and reservoirs dominate the area. Additionally, two roads cut deep into this area. The remainder of the unit has retained its natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The portion of the unit determined to be natural in character lacks adequate vegetative and topographic features to provide visitors with exceptional opportunities for solitude. The sagebrush covered flats and low profiled rolling hills do not provide barriers for one to feel remote from man's presence. The two roads and private land cutting deeply into the natural portion of the area seriously confine any primitive recreational opportunities the unit may offer.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few comments addressed the impact the transmission line and its access roads had on the unit's natural condition. The transmission line and associated roads are not within the unit; their impacts would be a Study Phase consideration. Private land, upland game hunting by vehicle access and multiple use management, which are also Study Phase considerations, were mentioned in a general comment. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-815 Clover Creek
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit has been renumbered. It is the westernmost of two units labeled CA-020-812 on the February 1979 maps. The unit is bounded on the north and east by private land and access roads, on the south by the Lost Creek Road, and on the west by a powerline right-of-way maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 8,200 acres of public land enclosing 120 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's terrain is uniformly characterized by low, rolling hills with scattered flats and ridges. Vegetation is low sagebrush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has approximately 9 miles of ways, 3 miles of fenceline, various stock tanks, and developed springs. Also, a powerline along the western boundary is visible from a large part of the unit. The number of intrusions and size of the area combine to give the area an obviously unnatural appearance.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The small sized unit with flat to moderately low sagebrush-covered terrain does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment addressed the existing transmission line, its access roads and their impacts on wilderness characteristics. Another addressed the location of the transmission line as shown on the map. The transmission line right-of-way and access roads are the recognized boundary and considered to be outside the area, their impacts are a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-816 Fox
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the west by a powerline right-of-way, on the north by Lost Creek Road, on the east by the Grass Valley Ranch Road, and on the south by the Fox Mountain access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-818 Bordwell Camp
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit now includes the southernmost of two units labeled CA-020-817 on the February 1979 maps. Through field investigation the initial boundary road was determined to lack road characteristics. This route had originally created part of the north boundary of the unit. The unit is bounded on the east by a high tension powerline right-of-way, in the south by Lost Creek Road, in the southwest and west by private lands and access roads, and in the north by Wall Canyon Road and private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 47,940 acres of public land which encloses about 440 acres of non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation is relatively uniform throughout the unit, low sage and grasses. Varied topography is represented by steep rocky bluffs and canyons in the north evolving into gentle slopes in the east and west and central portions. The south is punctuated by a large rocky canyon with numerous draws.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man has been more than just a random visitor to this area. Unnatural features include a bulldozed fenceline running the unit's length, numerous miles of dead end roads, many ways crossing the unit's width, and dam-type reservoirs. The central third of the unit has retained a natural landscape.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Solitude could be achieved in the unit because of the broken topography. The rocky bluffs and canyons provide areas for a visitor to be removed from man's physical presence, but his alteration of the landscape creates a sense of human presence. Two canyons provide a foundation for primitive types of recreation but both posses deadend roads. The area does not offer outstanding opportunities for either wilderness characteristic.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few comments supported the unit as a WSA without providing any information why it met wilderness characteristics. Other comments addressed the specific location of existing and proposed transmission lines and their impacts on wilderness characteristics. The lines have been recognized as the unit boundary and are considered to be outside of the inventory unit. Their impacts on a potential WSA would be a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-819 Lost Creek
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

A high tension powerline and its associated service road form the eastern border. The majority of the northern border is formed by private land, with the remainder by the Lost Creek Road. A natural surface road of varying quality forms the southern and eastern boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 28,000 acres of public land and encloses about 40 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The southern and western portions of the unit consist of flat to gently sloping land, with a number of shallow drainages. The northern and eastern areas are typified by more rugged slopes and rocky bluffs that rise to a flat plateau. Drainages here are more defined than on the rest of the unit. Vegetation consists entirely of sagebrush and other low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area contains numerous intrusions of man; however, the majority of these are located along the perimeter of the unit, lessening the impact of these upon the areas natural character. The majority of these intrusions are reservoirs, with several ways and roads and two fencelines crossing the unit. Due to the placement of these, the area can be said to generally retain its naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Little screening is available to facilitate the avoidance of other visitors to the area. Topographic screening is available in the more rugged portions of the area but this constitutes only a small portion of the whole. Vegetative screening does not exist within the unit. With topographic screening available only erratically, the unit cannot be considered to offer an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude. The alternating flat lands and rocky bluffs offer a limited degree of challenging or visually stimulating terrain. This type of landform doesn't offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed the existing and proposed transmission lines, their right-of-way, access roads and impacts on wilderness characteristics. The lines have been recognized as unit boundary thus considered outside of the unit. Their impact on a potential WSA would be a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-820 Squaw Valley
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, which contains lands administered by both the Susanville and Winnemucca Districts, BLM, lies entirely within Nevada. It is bounded on the west by Nevada Highway 81, the Squaw Valley Ranch Road and a powerline defines the eastern boundary, the west and east boundaries converge to form the southern boundary, and the Fox Mountain access road constitutes the northern border. The long, extended unit is approximately 8 miles long with 3 miles of it being less than 1½ miles in width.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending the decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the decision is made.

CA-020-821 South Fox Contiguous
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This unit, entirely within Nevada, has 7,220 acres of land administered by BLM within the Susanville and Winnemucca Districts. The boundaries include the Fox Mountain Road to the north, a natural surface access road to the east and south, a high tension powerline access road on the southwest boundary, and a grazing access road along the western restraint.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending the decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the decision is made.

CA-020-821A South Fox Contiguous (A)
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries are formed by two intersecting, unnamed roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 1,240 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size criteria or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for WSA designation.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-822 Negro Creek
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the west by Grass Valley Ranch Road, and on the north, east, and south by natural surface roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending the decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the decision is made.

CA-020-823 North Granite Contiguous
(Map 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit contains two small separate parcels located along the extreme southeast edge of the District's boundary. The two parcels are part of roadless areas administered by the Winnemucca, Nevada, District, BLM.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. A decision is deferred pending the decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the decision is made.

CA-020-904 Surprise Valley
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by Highway 299 and private land, on the east by County Road 37; on the south by County Road 38; and on the west by private land along the west shore of Middle Lake.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 48,000 acres of public land and encloses about 1,180 acres of non-public land in five inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The focal point of this unit is Middle Alkali Lake, a very shallow playa 14 miles long and varying width up to 3 miles. The remainder of the unit is mostly flat terrain broken occasionally by sand dunes. Plant associations include alkali sink and desert salt brush with a few juniper trees in the south-central portion.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been lightly intruded by a few ways which penetrate to a maximum of 1½ miles and 12 miles of fenceline. These intrusions have very little impact on naturalness. The area has retained its primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The playa and mostly flat terrain surrounding it provides little opportunity for visitors to find remoteness and to avoid the sight and sounds of other visitors. A hiker through the area would be in repeated contact with others due to the lack of vegetative or topographic features that would enhance one's feeling of solitude. The extremely shallow lake, which usually dries up yearly, would provide little opportunity for primitive forms of recreation as would the associated flats and low, rolling topography. The area does not meet wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received were mostly supportive of the unit as a WSA, though most did not offer specific inventory information. Some mentioned ACEC as a more appropriate designation. Others thought that outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation were present, though hard to achieve. This is contrary to BLM's assessment, which is that opportunities are not outstanding due to the difficulty in achieving them. The unit, along with numerous other units, is also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and the rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made to this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-905 Sand Creek
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Tee east boundary is the Jackson Mountain Road, the northwest boundary is the Boggs Reservoir Road, the southwest boundary is a county road. Non-public lands form portions of the east and southwest boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains 6,900 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is typical of the Great Basin type areas with a small mountain of 5,700 feet, several small valleys and draws with gentle sloping sagebrush-covered slopes. The western portion of the unit is a large, sagebrush-covered plain. Lower elevations are around 4,600 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man has significantly impacted the area with the introduction of non-native grasses and random vehicular travel. A natural landscape does not exist.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This unit's small size and lack of topographic and vegetative features precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude and limits primitive and unconfined recreation. The large, flat plain and the gradual sloping valleys and draws provide very few places of seclusion. The natural features could not provide more than very common opportunities for primitive types of recreation, by no means anything special.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments addressed geothermal potential in the unit which is a Study Phase consideration. Another comment concurred and supported with information the BLM recommendation for this unit. Another noted the existence of a road in the unit. This was noted in the inventory resulting in the bisecting of the unit into CA-020-905 and CA-020-905A. The unit, along with numerous other units, is also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and the rationale for dropping units but no specific comment is made to this unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-905A Sand Creek (A)
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southern and eastern boundaries of this unit are the Forty-Nine Pass Road. The west and north boundaries are two natural surface access roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 2,260 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-905B Sand Creek (B)
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The west unit border is formed by the Sand Creek Road and non-public lands; both the south and east borders are delineated by natural surface roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains approximately 3,402 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-905C Sand Creek (C)
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southern and northern boundaries are completed by non-public lands. The west boundary is the Sand Creek Road, and the east boundary is formed by non-public lands and a natural surface road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit contains approximately 4,572 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acres size requirement or any of the exceptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-906 Carter Reservoir
(Map 02-F and 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This irregularly shaped unit contains 9 miles of interior roads generating from a border delineated by Nevada Highway 8A on the south, non-public land on the east, and natural surface roads on the north and west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 25,000 acres of public land and encloses about 960 acres of non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Variety describes this unit. To the east exists a line of rocky bluffs, in the south are notable rock formations, and to the west and in central sections are uniform slopes and draws which form several basins. Sand Creek also flows west from the central area. It has carved a deep rock canyon with walls over 60 feet high. While stands of juniper of various densities predominate the highlands, canyons, and draws, sagebrush and grasses set the pace in the gentler slopes and basins.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's impact on nature is significant. Impacts include 9 miles of ways and many water related improvements, a diversion channel and pipe leading from Sand Creek, pit- and dam-type reservoirs, developed springs with watering troughs, and fence.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The eastern half of the unit lacks topographic and vegetative barriers to separate users for seclusion. The chance to avoid man's presence in the remaining area is offset by the network of roads that enter into it. The unit's shape further limits chance for solitude and negates unconfined movement necessary for primitive forms of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment addressed the hunting values of the area and the access rights of landowners. These are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation remains unchanged.

CA-020-909 Nut Mountain
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bound by Nevada Highwya 8A in the north, a natural surface road to the east, and a BLM access road around the southern and western boundaries, with non-public lands forming the remaining limits along the west and east portions.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 3,970 acres of public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The one commenter noted a road dissecting the area (which had resulted in the creation of CA-020-909A), roads surrounding the area (these are used as the unit boundaries), access rights of property owners and the hunting values of the area, which are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation remains unchanged.

CA-020-909A Nut Mountain (A)
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries include Nevada Highway 8A to the north, a road, determined from field observation, to the west, unimproved access roads along the east and south, with non-public land present along all sides.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 4,900 acres of public land and encloses 40 acres of non-public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-910 Hanging Rock Canyon
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of the area is Nevada Highway 8A. Steven's Camp Road delineates the western boundary. The southern boundary is the High Rock Canyon Road. The eastern boundary is the Trough Springs Road to the High Rock Canyon Road. The west and east boundaries partially consist of non-public lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 12,000 acres of public land and encloses about 720 acres of non-public land in two inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The main portion of this unit is of gently rolling hills ranging in elevation from 5,500 to 6,600 feet and many shallow, slow-flowing drainages. The central portion contains Hanging Rock Canyon, a steep and rugged drainage. Vegetation is composed of sagebrush, low desert shrubs, grasses, and forbs. The elongated unit stretches about 3 miles and is barely over 2 miles in width at the widest point.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been severely affected by man's use. Over 12 miles of fenceline, some bulldozed, and 10 miles of ways degrade the area's natural landscape. An 800-acre section has been planted with non-native grasses. The overall impact of these introduced features renders the area unnatural in character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are at a premium due to the area's configuration and lack of sufficient vegetative and topographic feature. The narrow unit's dominant sagebrush vegetation and rolling hills is not able to segregate users, except around Hanging Rock Canyon. Primitive recreation experiences would be extremely limited and confined by the physical boundaries and the network of existing fencelines.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received were almost exclusively supportive of this unit as part of a multi-unit complex. No Inventory Phase data was supplied about the unit's wilderness characteristics and the complex concept is a Study Phase consideration. One commenter noted roads cutting into and across the area but did not provide any information about the roads. During the field investigation the routes of travel referred to were identified as ways. Also mentioned is the right to access for non-public land owners. This is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation remains unchanged.

CA-020-911 Massacre Creek
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is within the State of Nevada. The boundaries are defined by the Indian Springs Road to the east, a BLM access road to the west, and non-public lands along the remainder of the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 9,230 acres of public land. It also encloses 360 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain in the southern portion of this unit is generally uniform rolling slopes leading to rimrock plateaus. Shallow draws with thick patches of sage exist in this area. Relief in the northern and western parts of the area are more abrupt, with deeper draws and canyons forming rocky flat areas at the higher elevations. Vegetation remains predominately low sage and grass.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit remains primeval in character. The ways within the unit have a cumulatively low impact on the unit's natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Existing natural features lack the depth to provide barriers for one to feel secluded. The mostly shallow drainages and canyons lack complexity to keep visitors separated, and the low sagebrush vegetation does not provide a visual screen that would enable one to avoid physical contacts. The natural features lack immensity to enhance opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments which supported the unit as a WSA addressed the outstanding opportunities due to geographic isolation and adjacent undeveloped areas, however no mention was made to the unit's wilderness characteristics. Another comment noted roads in the unit. These were considered in the inventory. Also private land and hunting by vehicle access were mentioned. These are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-911A Stevens Camp
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit lies within the State of Nevada. Boundaries include the Indian Springs Road to the west and the Stevens Camp Road to the east, south, and north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains 7,820 acres of public land. It also encloses 40 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A portion of the High Rock Canyon extends into the central portion of the unit. It includes steep, rocky ridgelines, with sagebrush and grass dominant. The remainder of the unit is gentle, low sagebrush-covered hills with no great topographical variance present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit tends to retain its primeval natural condition. The impact of man is noticeable at the boundaries of the unit, but not of importance, therefore the naturalness of the unit is retained.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for a visitor to be removed from man's presence is limited by the unit's small size and lack of topographic features. Being mostly less than 2.5 miles in width with rolling hills, the natural features would not keep users apart. These same limiting factors negate opportunities for unconfined types of non-mechanized recreation. An exception to the above would be a small area containing High Rock Canyon, but this 100-acre feature could not carry the entire unit.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A number of WSA supportive comments were received addressing this area's outstanding opportunities if combined within a complex with adjacent units which is a Study Phase consideration of individual units qualifying as a Wilderness Study Area. Other comments supported the unit as providing archaeological, historical, biological and scenic values. Also a comment noted roads in the unit. These were recognized in the inventory as ways. Also private land and hunting by vehicle access were mentioned. These are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-912 Nellie Mountain
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

This unit was found not to qualify for WSA identification during a special wilderness inventory. The inventory findings were addressed in a Special Report Review and mailed separately. The unit is officially released from the Wilderness Review Process.

CA-020-913 Little High Rock
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded in the north by Mahogany Mountain Road; in the west by Denio Camp Road, a road cutting into private land, and private property; in the south by Smoky Canyon Road and Highway 34; and in the east by High Rock Canyon Road, Smoky Canyon Road, and private property.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Susanville and Winnemucca Districts. The Susanville portion contains approximately 44,870 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this unit varies from high mountains to steep canyons. Mahogany Mountain, at 6,979 feet, is the highest of the peaks. Little High Rock is the most outstanding of the canyons, with depths up to 750 feet, but many other drainages throughout the unit provide dramatic break ups in the terrain. Elevations range between 4,900 feet and almost 7,000 feet. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, low desert shrubs, perennial grasses, and forbs. Mountain mahogany grows at higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A portion of the unit's western edge appears to be significantly impacted by man's activities. Ways, bulldozed fencelines, mining pits and range facilities are evenly scattered in a relatively small area. A readjustment of the potential WSA boundary may be in order pending completion of the intensive inventory in Winnemucca and rehabilitation assessment for intrusions throughout the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The highly varied landscape provides many opportunities for a visitor to experience solitude. The numerous canyons and drainages provide unlimited places for one to feel alone and free of man's influence. Outstanding among these canyons is Little High Rock Canyon, a deep canyon with precipitious walls and many deep tributaries, which provides many outstanding opportunities. Primitive and unconfined type activities include camping, hiking, nature study (many raptors and wildlife species exist within the area), archaeological, cave and historical investigation and other related activities. The public lands administered by the Susanville District very clearly meet this wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based on field examinations stemming from specific public comments, two additional routes of travel have been identified as meeting road criteria. The maps and files have been changed accordingly. Comments addressed a number of factors that are Study Phase considerations: private land, access needs for maintenance of range facilities, mining values, value of the area for four-wheelers and rockhounds, habitat for wildlife, historical and archaeological values, concerns for non-wilderness users and management problems. A couple of comments mentioned the existence of man-made features which would detract from the units naturalness, however, no specific information was provided about any specific intrusion or location. The known intrusions have been considered as either not having a significant impact on the area or having a significant impact and were used as the basis for unnatural areas. A large number of comments supported the WSA recommendation and as part of a WSA complex. The complex concept is a Study Phase consideration.

VII. DEFERRED DECISION

Even though the public land administered by the Susanville District very obviously meets WSA criteria, Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. The decision is deferred pending completion of the intensive inventory by Winnemucca and a joint inventory decision by the California and Nevada State Directors.

CA-020-913A Yellow Rock Canyon
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded in the north and east by Frank's Road, by Mahogany Mountain Road in the south, and by Denio Camp Road in the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit consists of 13,050 acres of public land enclosing no non-public inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is an intergal part of the High Rock Canyonlands. The numerous small canyons and drainage join and create Yellow Rock Canyon, one of the main canyons in the nationally recognized prehistoric-historic resource rich High Rock Canyon Complex. Yellow Rock Canyon is approximately 600 feet deep. A high ridge runs for 2½ miles south of Yellow Rock Canyon. Vegetation of the unit is low sage, rabbitbrush, perennial grasses, forbs and a scattering of mountain mahogany.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is in evidence in the unit, but is generally restricted to the perimeter. Ten miles of fenceline within the unit is the exception. Other man-made features include reservoirs, one developed spring, and one removable stock tank. All intrusions have low impacts.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The great diversity in topography provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and some occurrences for recreation. The cahllenging terrain would provide numerous places for one to be isolated from other visitors and opportunities to use his outdoor skills. Primitive and unconfined type activities include camping, hiking, nature study (many raptors and wildlife species exist within the area), archaeological, cave and historical investigation and many other related activities. The public lands administered by the Susanville District meet this criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Based on field examinations stemming from specific public comments, several additional range facilities and mining exploration areas have been identified. Due to proximity to the boundaries and natural screening, these intrusions are of little impact. The files have been changed accordingly. A large number of comments supported the WSA recommendation and many of these also supported the unit as a part of a WSA complex. Comments also addressed a number of factors that are Study Phase considerations: private land, access needs for maintenance of range facilities, mining values, value of the area for four-wheelers and rockhounds, habitat for wildlife, easy access further degrading the area, historical and archaeological values, concerns for non-wilderness users and management problems. A couple of comments refer to the existence of intrusions which would detract from the units naturalness, however specific information was not provided about any specific intrusion or location. The known intrusions have been considered as not having a significantly high impact on the area due to proximity to the boundary and sufficient screening. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-913B High Rock Canyon
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded in the north by Indian Springs Road and a natural surface (dirt) road, in the east by High Rock Canyon and private property, and in the south and the west by Frank's Road and Mahogany Mountain Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 33,985 acres of public land and encompasses no private land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

There is great topographical diversity within this unit characterized by steep canyons, buttes, plateaus, and numerous peaks. Elevations range from 4,900 feet to 6,100 feet. Three major canyons/drainages cut the unit from west to east, ending in High Rock Canyon. These are: Grassy Canyon, Yellow Rock Canyon, and Mahogany Creek. Vegetation in the unit consists of low sage, rabbitbrush, perennial grasses, and forbs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The great majority of this unit is generally natural in character. There are a few ways, 2 miles of fenceline, and reservoirs. All of these intrusions have low impacts, and the complex terrain further diminishes their presence.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The highly eroded landform which makes up this unit of numerous drainages, canyons, rock plateaus and escarpments provides exceptional chances for visitors' recreation. Challenging and primitive opportunities exist for hiking, camping, studying the cultural and biological resources present, rock climbing, and orienteering. This unit meets the wilderness criteria in this category.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments received addressed factors which are Study Phase considerations. Mentioned were: private land, access needs for maintenance of range facilities, mining values, four-wheel drive vehicle recreation use, rockhounding access via vehicle, wildlife habitat, ease of access adversely affecting the area's naturalness, and problems for management. One comment addressed the regular maintenance of Frank's Road. The route had previously been identified as a road and is one of the unit's boundaries. This commenter also mentioned specific intrusions and their locations. Additional field study was conducted and these intruison have been noted. None were severe enough either individually or collectively to affect the area's naturalness. Another commenter metnioned the existence of man-made features which detract from the area's naturalness; however, no specific information was provided. A large number of comments supported the WSA designation and a significant portion of these supported the unit as part of a WSA complex. The complex concept is a Study Phase consideration. The WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-914 East Fork High Rock Canyon
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Boundaries are the Butch Flat Road along the north, with the High Rock Canyon and the Buck Springs Roads forming the remainder, except where non-public land exist along the western edge.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Susanville and Winnemucca Districts. The Susanville portion contains approximately 46,450 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography varies from rolling hills and small plateaus with minor canyons to deep, rugged canyons and rocky bluffs. Vegetation present includes sparsely scattered juniper stands, willows in drainage bottoms, and low shrubs throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of the Susanville portion has retained its primeval character, however, a portion of the northern third is impacted by the bulldozed fencelines and two deadend roads providing access to wells and other range facilities. A boundary adjustment may be in order for the potential WSA boundary pending completion of the intensive inventory for the Winnemucca portion of the unit and rehabilitation assessment for the entire interstate unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The diverse landscape offers exceptional chances for a visitor to be removed from man. The complex system of canyons and dry drainages provide many barriers to keep users apart. These same features build a concrete support for different types of primitive recreation opportunities. Some of these opportunities include camping, hiking, nature study (many raptors, plant and wildlife species exist within the area), archaeological, cave and historical investigation and many other related activities. The public lands administered by the Susanville District definitly meet this wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments received addressed factors which are Study Phase considerations. Mentioned were: private land, access needs for maintenance of range facilities, mining values, four-wheel drive vehicle recreation use, rockhounding access via vehicle, wildlife habitat, ease of access adversely affecting the area's naturalness, and problems for management. One comment addressed the regular maintenance of Frank's Road. The route had previously been identified as a road and is one of the unit's boundaries. This commenter also mentioned specific intrusions and their locations. Additional field study was conducted and these intrusions have been noted. None were severe enough either individually or collectively to affect the area's naturalness. Another commeter mentioned the existence of man-made features which detract from the area's naturalness; however, no specific information was provided. A large number of comments supported the WSA designation and a significant portion of these supported the unit as part of a WSA.

VII. DEFERRED DECISION

Even though the public land administered by the Susanville District very obviously meets WSA criteria, Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate units. The decision is deferred pending completion of the intensive inventory by Winnemucca and a joint inventory decision by the California and Nevada State Directors.

CA-020-914A Butcher Flat
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded in the west by Buck Springs Road, in the north and east by natural surface roads, and in the south by the Susanville District boundary. The roadless unit overlaps with public land administered by the Winnemucca District BLM.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-915 Wall
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit contains approximately 15,000 acres of public land in northwestern Nevada. The unit is bound on the north by the Sheldon Antelope Refuge. The Wall Canyon Road and some private land forms the eastern boundary, with the Butchers Flat Road and more private land bordering the unit to the south. The western restraint is formed by the Nut Mountain Road and private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 15,000 acres of public land surrounding 160 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this unit consists of many small canyons and drainages interspersed between mountains of varying size. These drainages serve to break up the landform and give this unit a great deal of topographic relief. The uniform vegetation throughout consist of low sagebrush and other low shrub species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit contains a few man-made intrusions (ways and fence) but, due to the placement of these and the screening provided by topography and, to a lesser degree, by the vegetation, their effect on the naturalness of the unit is minimal.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area offers some but not exceptional opportunities for a person to be removed from contact with other visitors. The northern third with moderate topographic relief is less than 3 miles wide. The side open vistas between topographic barriers would provide more than random contact amongst visitors. Primitive recreational opportunities are available but not as good as larger surrounding areas exhibiting a similar landscape with more expansiveness and complexity.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the unit as meeting WSA criteria individually and as a complex and noted the existence of private land and access need. Field examinations did not verify that the unit met WSA criteria and the complex idea and private land access are Study Phase considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-916 Wildcat Gorge
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small unit in northwest Nevada comprises barely over 5,000 acres of public land. The boundaries include an unimproved access road on all sides, with private lands forming portions of the boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 5,400 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area varies with two small abrupt peaks along the east boundary, two small canyons, and low, rolling hills as characteristic of the landform. The vegetation include big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, willow in the draws, and some mountain mahogany.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Except for Wildcat Gorge, the unit seems to have very limited opportunities for one to avoid contact with other visitors. The unit's small size coupled with generally uniform topographic features and low profile vegetation cover would make seclusion a premium. Wildcat Gorge could provide a sense of isolation to one, but it lacks the size to provide unlimited opportunities. Primitive recreational opportunities could take place but with serious limitation for the above-mentioned reason. The unit does not meet this wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the unit as a possible ACEC designation and as being possibly less than 5,000 acres in size and for multiple use management. The area is greater than 5,000 acres in size and the other factors are not wilderness inventory considerations. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-917 Boulder
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit lies within the state of Nevada. The boundaries include Nevada Highway 34 to the northeast, Boulder Lake Road to the west, private land borders on the south and northwest, with the Pinto Spring Road as a southeast limit to the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 17,760 acres of public land surrounding 80 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the unit is basically flat to rolling in the southern portion, to rocky and somewhat mountainous in the remainder of the unit, with a few intermittent streams offering some variety within the unit. The vegetation is sagebrush-grass variety throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A natural landscape does not exist in the unit's northern half. Over 10 miles of bulldozed fenceline, a water diversion ditch, and vehicle trails compromise its natural condition. The southern half has retained naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The flat to rolling, sagebrush-covered hills with occasional rock outcrops provides little opportunity for one to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors; solitude would not be realized. Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities would be extremely scarce due to topographic limitations and physical barriers created by the bulldozed fencelines.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed the non-public land and needs for access and multiple use management which are Study Phase considerations. One comment addressed a specific route of travel with supporting information why it met road criteria. The way has been reidentified as a road and noted on the maps. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-918 49 Pass
(Map 02-G and 02-I)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is approximately 19 miles long and averages 5 miles wide. It is bounded by Modoc County Road 37 and private land on the west side the Hayes Canyon Road and private land on the south side, the Home Camp Ranch and private land on the southeast side, private land on the northeast side, and a power transmission line right-of-way located just south of the Forty-Nine Canyon Road on the north side.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 67,040 acres of public land surrounding about 1,500 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is diverse in both landforms and vegetation types. The terrain varies from relatively gentle and upsloping lands on the western front to nearly vertical rimrock along the ridge. Elevations range from 4,800 feet to between 6,200 and 7,500 feet. As elevations increase, the terrain is denoted by terraces, eroded draws, and deep canyons. The summit is characterized by buttes, plateaus, and peaks which are also deeply cut in places by inflowing drainages. On the eastern edge the northern third of the unit's boundary is along the summit and rim of Forty-Nine Mountain. The southern two-thirds is downsloping to the Home Camp Flats. Vegetation varies with elevation, soil, and moisture availability. At lower elevations greasewood predominates, giving way to low sage and shadscale as elevations rise. This changes to sagebrush with further increases in elevation, with quaking aspens in some of the canyons with more water. At the highest elevations, juniper and sagebrush grow together. Aspens do grow along the streams emanating at the summit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is displayed in large portions of the area. Eight miles of bulldozed fenceline bisect the southern portion and over 50 miles of vehicle trails exist throughout, with approximately 50 percent of the ways intruding the unit's center. Numerous range facilities, pit- and dam-type reservoirs, fencing, and a well were built to support livestock grazing in the unit. Additionally a number of highly visible dead-end roads contribute to the unit's unnatural landscape.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area's large size and diverse vegetative and topographic nature provides for good opportunities for solitude, but not without being in constant exposure to man-made features. Unconfined recreational opportunities are restricted by the roads, fencelines, and ways present. The unit does not meet this wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Votes were cast supporting the unit as a WSA without providing any information about the area's wilderness characteristics. Others concurred with the non-WSA designation. A large number of ways were identified as meeting road criteria because "nearly all" had been mechanically improved. A number of the routes referenced are identified as roads as verified through previous field examination. The other referenced routes were determined to be ways and are possibly the ones not fitting the "nearly all improved" category or did not meet the maintenance part of road criteria. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-919 Sagebrush
(Map 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the south and west by unnamed natural surfaced roads. For discussion purposes the east and north boundaries are the Susanville administrative boundary line, but the roadless area contains lands administered by the Winnemucca, Nevada, BLM District.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Winnemucca District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Review Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Nevada State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-1004 Twelve Mile Creek
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded in the north by the Oregon state line, which is also Susanville District's boundary; in the east by a powerline right-of-way; in the south by Barrel Springs Road; and in the west by private land and a natural surface road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Lakeview District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joing inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Oregon State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-1004A Twelve Mile Creek (A)
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is bound on the east and west sides by powerline rights-of-way, on the north by the Oregon State boundary line and on the south by the Barrel Springs Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains less than 3,000 acres of contiguous public land. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size requirement to be considered for WSA identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The sole comment addressed the location of the transmission line and its impact on wilderness characteristics. The line forms the unit boundary and is an outside influence on wilderness characteristics which is a Study Phase consideration.

CA-020-1005 Coleman Ranch
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit overlaps the Oregon border and continues into the Lakeview BLM District. The Susanville unit is bounded on the west by a powerline access road, on the south by non-public lands and the Barrel Springs Road, on the east by non-public lands, and on the north by the Oregon border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Lakeview District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Oregon State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-1006 Crooks Lake
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western border is formed by the Crooks Lake Road, some private land, and the Barrel Springs Road. The latter continues on to form the northern boundary also. The eastern border is formed by private land and a power transmission line right-of-way. Crooks Lake Road and the substantial private land surrounding Crooks Lake make up the southern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 42,000 acres of public land and encloses non-public inholdings totaling about 1,260 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Private land forming portions of the boundaries create a highly jagged-shaped unit. The plains in the western portion rise to juniper covered ridges in the central portions. Small juniper covered hills with scattered ridges are found in the east. Large sagebrush flats are present throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Despite the presence of a large number of intrusions within the unit, such as ways, ditches, mining pits, and reservoirs, its naturalness has been retained. Due to both topographic and vegetative screening, and the generally low impact of the individual intrusions, the cumulative effect is such to detract little from the unit's natural state. Man-made features include fences, reservoirs and ways.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Areas of expansive viewsheds are broken only slightly throughout the unit. The scattered juniper serves to do this to some extent, but not adequately enough to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The scattered ridges also function to the same degree. These same factors do not enhance opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Additionally the irregular pattern of private land somewhat restricts freedom of movement. All these factors lead to an area that is less than outstanding in opportunities for either wilderness criteria.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several commenters addressed the existence of powerlines along the eastern boundary, and one thought that their existence would compromise the unit's ability to provide solitude and recreation. The powerline right-of-way has been acknowledged as the boundary and the one comment regarding solitude and recreation is a Study Phase consideration. Another commenter cited the area's value as hunting ground via vehicles. This is a Study Phase consideration. One other commenter felt that the area could supply opportunities for solitude but no data supporting outstanding opportunities for solitude was provided. The unit, along with numerous units, is also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made to this unit or its wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1006A Crooks Lake (A)
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bound on the north, east, and south by the Fee Reservoir Road and on the west by the Crooks Lake Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 2,420 acres of public land and a 160 acre non-public inholding. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received.

CA-020-1006B Crooks Lake (B)
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Rights-of-way for power transmission lines form all of the eastern boundary and most of the western boundary with private land forming the remainder. The north and south limits are roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains about 2,060 acres of public land and one 120 acre non-public inholding. It does not meet the 5,000 acre size requirement or any of the exemptions to the minimum size criteria to be considered for Wilderness Study Area identification.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The one comment received was concerned with a powerline right-of-way on the west boundary, as regards its location on the public maps and its impact on solitude and recreation. The powerline's right-of-way has been acknowledged as the unit's western border. Its impact on the unit's ability to provide solitude and recreation is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1007 Lieberman Canyon
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This narrow, triangularly shaped unit is bordered by roads on the east, west, and south. Private land forms a portion of the northwest border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 7,940 acres of public land enclosing 640 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is characterized by an abrupt western slope which levels off to a more gently rising plateau on top. Elevation ranges from 4,600 feet to almost 6,000 feet. Two small canyons are found along the western slope. Vegetation is dominated by low shrubs. Scattered juniper is found in the higher elevations. Approximately 70 percent of the unit is less than 3 miles in width with the northern third being less than 2 miles in width.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Evidence of man's work is present near the perimeter, but the unit's core has retained naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The small size, narrow shape, the broad, open slopes devoid of effective topographic screening, and the lack of vegetative diversity all contribute to limiting the unit's opportunity to offer solitude. The small size and narrow shape of the unit would confine movement to the point of limiting the opportunity for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed a potential geothermal resource and private land both Study Phase considerations. The existence of roads was also mentioned, however, no specific road or location was submitted. The unit, along with numerous other units, was also mentioned in a general comment addressing such factors as location, distance from population centers and rationale for dropping units, however, no specific comment was made about the unit's wilderness characteristics. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1008 Little Coleman Canyon
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of the unit is private land. The western boundary consists of private land and the Mosquito Valley Road, the southern boundary is all private land, and the eastern boundary is the Glenco Spring Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 280 acres of non-public land is surrounded by this 11,720 acre publicly owned unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The elevation of the unit varies from 5,000 feet in the flats to 6,549 feet in the center. The land form varies from flats to small mountain peaks, with ridge lines, canyons, and drainages. Low sagebrush is the most common vegetation found with scattered juniper and scattered aspen in canyons.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is primarily natural in character. Most intrusions are scattered along the periphery of the unit, but a few ways cross the unit. Their impact on naturalness is minimal.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This unit does not provide superior situations for a visitor to retreat from man's presence. The low lying, sagebrush-covered hills and flats representing the bulk of the landscape allow wide vistas upon the land. An extremely small area has diverse drainages and somewhat rugged mountains where good opportunities for seclusion could be realized, but the small size precludes exceptional considerations. The conforming landscape would not provide for primitive types of recreation except around Little Coleman Canyon.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the unit as a WSA complex with no information provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics or with information that had been previously considered. A way leading to private land was determined to meet road criteria based upon information received. The road has been noted on inventory maps. Private land was also addressed which is a Study Phase consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1009 Calcutta
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Nevada Highway 34, private lands, and a section of another road form the eastern border. The western border consists of a natural surface road of varying quality with private land at the north and south ends. Both east and west borders meet at a point forming the northern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public land totals approximately 29,000 acres which encompasses 280 acres of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The main feature of this unit is a series of ridges running along the western border. These rise steeply on the west but slope off gently to the east. Elevation varies from 5,700 feet to 6,500 feet. Vegetation is primarily low sage, but scattered stands of juniper are formed at the higher elevations. Two natural lakes exist, both very shallow and normally drying up yearly.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A number of vehicular ways intrude the area, but the landscape absorbs their impact well. The area has generally retained a natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for either of these characteristics is limited within the unit by the uniformity of landform and vegetation and the relatively narrow shape of the unit. It would be difficult to escape the influence of other visitors to the area. The natural features lack immensity and definition to provide more than ordinary primitive recreational pursuits.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the unit as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which is not a wilderness consideration. The unit was supported as a WSA complex with no specific information provided about the unit's wilderness characteristics and as a WSA by itself with information that had been previously considered--seasonal lakes and proximity to other roadless areas. Private land and access to it and transmission lines impacts on wilderness characteristics are Study Phase considerations. The transmission lines are recognized as forming the unit's east boundary. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1009A Calcutta (A)
(Map 02-F and 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The inverted triangular shaped unit is bordered on the east by a powerline right-of-way. Private property and a natural surface road constitute the northern boundary. A good quality natural surface road forms the western border. The south boundary is formed by the intersection of the east and west boundary features.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 9,000 acres of public land and encloses one non-public inholding of about 40 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is characterized by flat to slightly undulating terrain of which 17 percent consists of dry lake beds. Vegetation is almost entirely the low shrubs of sagebrush and rabbitbrush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The overall effect of a few man-made intrusions within this unit is minimal. The natural integrity is maintained.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The fact that wide open viewsheds are available throughout the unit precludes opportunities for experiencing solitude. There is no effective screening mechanism in the unit, whether by vegetation or topography. The rolling flats, dry lake beds, and the small triangularly shaped unit all inhibit the areas opportunity for primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment addressed the location and impact of the transmission lines forming the west boundary. The lines are considered outside of the unit and their impact on a potential WSA is a Study Phase consideration as is the private land mentioned in another comment. The possible ACEC designation was mentioned which is not a wilderness inventory consideration. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1010 Macy Flat
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit, entirely within the state of Nevada, is located in the extreme north-central edge of the Susanville District. The Oregon state line forms the north boundary for discussion purposes in this narrative, but the roadless area continues into Oregon. The east boundary is formed by the Macy Flat Road, the west boundary by Nevada Highway 34, and the south boundary by a combination of these two roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The interstate unit contains public land administered in part by the Lakeview District and in part by the Susanville District.

III. DEFERRED DECISION

Bureau Wilderness Policy requires a joint inventory decision by involved State Directors for interstate inventory units. A decision is deferred pending a joint decision by the California and Oregon State Directors. Public comments will be assessed for the entire interstate unit when the joint inventory decision is made.

CA-020-1011 Sheldon Contiguous
(Map 02-F)

The unit is now considered to be part of inventory unit CA-020-1012. Based upon comments received addressing the road separating the two units, a field examination verified that the road did not meet road criteria its entire length as shown on the Wilderness Intensive Inventory Maps, July 1979. Public comments addressing unit CA-020-1011 will be assessed in making an inventory decision for the combined CA-020-1012 unit.

CA-020-1012 Sheldon Contiguous
(Map 02-F)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The north boundary is formed by the Oregon/California State Line; the Sheldon National Antelope Refuge is the east and south boundary; the Macy Flat Road and Nevada Highway 34 forms the west boundary. The unit is contiguous to a proposed Wilderness Area on the Sheldon Refuge.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public land acreage is approximately 24,130 enclosing about 840 of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topographic features varies from flat to rolling terrain interrupted by steep north-south narrow ridges and rock buttes along with scattered drainages. Vegetative features include sage and scattered to dense stands of juniper trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's activities has not significantly altered the natural condition. The bulldozed fenceline separating the Sheldon Antelope Range from public land is extremely old with good revegetation growth occurring in most places. A bulldozed fireline is very low profiled with good regrowth because it and the burn was reseeded which established itself well due to the soil type and the relatively flat terrain were the fire was located. The ways intruding into the heart of the unit are very inconspicuous because they traverse mostly flat ground and apparently receive little use because regrowth of vegetation is sufficient to help hide their impacts. The unit should be considered natural in character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPES OF RECREATION

The unit would provide some opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation on its own merit, however, these opportunities would be enhanced when assessed in concert with the proposed wilderness area on the Sheldon.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A number of comments supported a WSA recommendation for the unit because it was contiguous to a proposed wilderness area. One comment made specific reference to the road separating units CA-020-1011 and CA-020-1012 along with inventory additional information requiring further field examination. As a result of the examination, the road determination was changed in part and previously identified significant impacts were assessed to be mostly natural. Other comments addressed a possible ACEC designation, private land and access needs, roads in general and multiple use management, none of which are inventory considerations. The non-WSA designation is changed to a WSA designation. The unit was determined to be natural in character and that the once bulldozed fenceline is not significant barrier that logically separates the inventory unit from the proposed Sheldon Wilderness Area. By association with the proposed Wilderness Area, the unit is identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

CA-020-1013 Massacre Rim
(Map 02-F and 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit lies in the state of Nevada. The area is bounded on the east by Bitner Ranch Road and Highway 8A. Highway 34 and a natural surface road form the western boundary. The northern boundary consists of Bald Mountain Canyon Road. The southern part of the unit is bounded by Highway 34 and private property.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 110,000 acres of public land which encloses about 2,000 acres of scattered non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landscape consists of large flats with scattered dry lake beds, and rolling hills. There is a steep rim following the northwest boundary. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, low desert shrubs, junipers, perennial grasses and forbs, and other desert plants. Elevation ranges from 5,500 feet to 6,800 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The west half has been significantly impacted by man's activities. A myriad of ways criss-cross the area, in addition to bladed fencelines and water storage structures. The east half has retained its natural conditions; the few man-caused features are of low impact on naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The portion of the unit which retained a natural character lacks diverse topographic and vegetative features that would enhance solitude. The low sagebrush-covered, gentle rolling hills and expansive flats allows vast open viewsheds where man's sight and sounds would be very evident. However, the area's large size would afford some opportunity for users to separate themselves from one another. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not exist for lack of diverse or challenging natural features.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed existing and proposed transmission lines and their impacts on wilderness characteristics. The transmission lines are recognized as forming the west boundary and are outside of the unit; their impacts are a Study Phase consideration. A number of comments supported a WSA complex including this unit in it. A WSA complex is also a Study Phase consideration. Comments also supported it as a WSA by itself referencing its mostly natural condition, size, location to other roadless areas and superior solitude. This information was reconsidered in the evaluation of the unit. Comments also agreed with the non-WSA designation with supporting information that had been already considered in the inventory (fences, reservoirs, common landscape features) and with information that are Study Phase considerations--private land, access needs to deliver salt blocks. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-020-1015 Boyd Springs
(Map 02-F and 02-G)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is delineated on the west by the Boyd Spring Ranch Road and private land, on the south by the Dodie Mountian Road, and on the east by the Irish Spring Road. A road running east-northeast from the old Boyd Spring Ranch headquarters and Geological Survey bench mark 4466 constitutes the north boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains approximately 10,240 acres of land under public ownership and encloses no non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is characterized by a westward slope broken by north-northwest trending basaltic dikes, creating small canyons and drainages. Streams are ephemeral. Low elevations are covered by sagebrush, salt desert shrubs, and grasses, with juniper and sagebrush at the higher elevations. Elevation ranges from 6,100 feet along the east boundary to 4,400 feet along the west boundary.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is substantially evident. The 11 miles of vehicular routes, 6 miles of fence-lines, and numerous reservoirs supporting livestock grazing in the area create an unnatural setting.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are limited. Existing topographic and vegetative features lack definition and immensity to segregate visitors from one another. Primitive and unconfined types of recreation opportunities would be difficult to experience on the rather uniform and bland landscape.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The few comments received addressed mineral resources and land-use trade-offs, multiple use management and the presence of roads with no reference to any specific route. Mineral resource and multiple use management are Study Phase considerations as recognized by one commenter. The non-WSA designation is unchanged.

CA-030-101 Mahogany Mountain
(Map 03-C)

Redding District

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of this inventory unit are the private lands surrounding the Bureau of Land Management administered parcel. The Mahogany Mountain unit consists of a total of 17,440 acres and is bordered by numerous ranches. Few easily identified boundary lines exist. In general the steeper portions of the area are BLM lands and three local landmarks, Mahogany Mountain, Sheep Mountain, and Coyote Ridge are found within the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire inventoried unit is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. No inholdings of private land are included. No adjacent federal lands are present.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The general topography is characterized as a prominent broad, flat-topped ridge rising from a broad flat plain. Mahogany Mountain and Sheep Mountain rise to elevations of approximately 6210 feet and are the dominant peaks within the landform. Slopes are not generally steep but some cliffs and steep faces are present on the west side of the unit. Vegetation is varied, consisting mostly of western juniper with an associated understory of grass and mountain shrub species. A small stand of ponderosa pine is found on Sheep Mountain. Mountain mahogany and sagebrush are the dominant brush species present. Vegetative cover is generally sparse but occurs in dense concentrations in drainages and natural depressions.

Several livestock reservoirs are found and are used seasonally by deer and various birds as well as domestic stock. Red Rock Lakes are adjacent to the unit on the south end.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Mahogany Mountain unit has a network of roads constructed along the north-south ridgetop and into the Sheep Mountain and Coyote Ridge portions. The roads have been constructed using mechanical methods in the early twenties and have been used and maintained periodically since that time. Some segments of the road do not adversely impact the naturalness of the area but steep faces required deep cuts and large fills which do adversely impact the natural characteristics of the unit. The livestock water developments and fences do not adversely affect naturalness.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

When compared to other similar areas within the same physiographic landform province the Mahogany Inventory Unit is not considered to provide outstanding opportunity for solitude or unconfined recreation.

The relatively narrow unit bounded by a dramatic change in topography from steep hillside to flat plain does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude and forces foot travel to be oriented north and south to gain an unconfined feeling.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received on this unit accurately determined the time and method of construction on roads found within the unit. Many comments agreed with the Bureau's findings and supported the proposed decision. Some comments were not useable in the inventory phase of the Wilderness Review as they failed to address inventory criteria. Generally the comments received, stated that the area is essentially natural but acknowledged the presence of roads and lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. These comments were supportive of the Wilderness Team's findings and substantiate the decision to eliminate the area from further consideration in the Review process. Since no new information was received, there was no change in the proposed decision to eliminate the Mahogany Mountain Unit from further consideration in the Wilderness Review Process.

CA-030-201 Timbered Crater
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Timbered Crater WSA Unit has the same boundary as the Intensive Inventory Unit. It is

bounded on the north and northeast by private lands in Little Hot Spring Valley. The southeast and west boundaries are adjacent to National Forest lands. A portion of the south boundary is delineated by private lands, with State of California owned lands forming the remaining boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit consists of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Two parcels

owned by Kimberly-Clark Corporation are located in the north end of the unit. These parcels total 195 acres and are not included as a part of the proposed WSA. Three adjacent Forest Service parcels have been designated recommended for wilderness by the RARE II process. The total net area administered by the BLM is 18,690 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominant feature of this unit is the large crater on the west boundary. It lies mostly outside of the unit with only the east edge within BLM lands. Soils on its slopes have become covered with grasses, manzanita brush, and ponderosa pine. The remainder of the unit consists of a large lava flow which has not yet developed deep soils and is still rocky, rough, and difficult to traverse. The general topography of the lava flow is characterized by low buttes and shallow depressions and drainages. Natural vegetation on the lava flow consists of ponderosa pine, digger pine, oak, and juniper, and dense to scattered mountain shrub. A stand of Baker Cypress is found within this unit and 1148 acres was designated as a Natural Area in 1965. FLPMA further identified this as an Instant Study Area to be considered in the Wilderness Inventory process.

Wildfire burned across a large portion of this area in 1977. Much of the timber and brush was burned over and the brush is currently sprouting.

Numerous resident deer herds use this area as winter range until warmer weather arrives.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area is essentially natural in character due primarily to its harsh, difficult to traverse terrain. During the Horr's Corner fire in 1977, several firebreaks were constructed across the lava flow. The resultant disturbance of the natural lava rock is apparent but was determined to be an impact that could be substantially unnoticeable with the passage of time. The native brush species are gradually growing back over the fire trails at present. The surface of the fire trails will be noticeable for a longer time until natural processes weather the lava rocks to a greater degree. With the brush covering the trails, however, they would be a minimal impact when viewed as a part of the total unit.

Some flat rock mining, evidence of past logging, and two roads are present within the Timbered Crater Unit. These occur as intrusions into the unit from the perimeter.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The Timbered Crater Inventory Unit proposed for Wilderness Study Area status provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. Traditional wilderness experiences are available and the area offers an opportunity for archeological, botanical, and geological studies as well.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received on the Timbered Crater Unit varied greatly. Several comments were not applicable to the inventory phase of the Wilderness Review as they offered no specific information on the inventory criteria. Some are useable in the study phase of the review, however. Some comments addressed the natural characteristics of the unit and the impact of the firebreaks established in 1977. A few comments offered information regarding the location and use of roads and private land within the WSA boundary. Some comments supporting the Bureau's proposed decision were received, and impact of the firebreaks on the unit's naturalness were the key points of consideration. No new information was received during the public comment period and the decision of the Wilderness Team was that the firebreaks did not impair the natural characteristics of the unit. No change in the proposed decision to designate this area as a WSA was made.

CA-030-203 Lava
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Lava Unit is bounded by private lands on the north, the old Jim Snell Road and private lands on the northeast, east, and southeast and a gravel surfaced county road on the south. The west border is the ownership boundary between Bureau of Land Management administered lands and privately owned parcels.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit is comprised entirely of BLM administered lands with no inholding of private ownership present. One section along the south boundary is privately owned land but is excluded from the Inventory Unit. Total net area of this unit is 11,632 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The general topography of the Lava Unit consists of an old lava flow dominated by a prominent butte. The butte is located on the southern end of the unit and rises 500 to 700 feet above the general elevation of the surrounding terrain.

The ground surface is rocky and broken with buttes and broad depressions formed as a result of the cooling of lava flows.

Several lava tubes and caves are found near the south boundary and are part of an existing recreation site. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, manzanita, and oak brush with scattered juniper and digger pine occurring. The area provides excellent cover for deer and is used as a winter range by migrating herds.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Some of man's activities outside the inventory unit can be observed from within. No roads are present within the unit although several vehicle routes have been established by occasional travel. None of these adversely impact the natural characteristics of the unit.

A limited amount of livestock fencing has occurred and two wildlife guzzlers are present. These have been determined to have little adverse impact on the natural quality of this unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

A major portion of the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. Traditional recreation experiences are available and may be enjoyed in an unconfined manner. In addition the unit provides an opportunity to study geological features considered to be unique. Little or no evidence of human activity can be found, and this quality adds to the overall primitive characteristics of this unit.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most of the comments received on this unit were supportive of the Bureau's decision to identify it as a WSA. Several comments accurately located roads along the margin of the unit and enabled the boundary to be well defined. Some comments not relative to the inventory phase of the wilderness review were submitted and will be used during the study phase. In general, few comments offered specific information on inventory criteria.

No new information was revealed during the public review period and no change in the proposed WSA boundary has been made.

CA-030-204 Cinder Butte
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit consists of four separate parcels adjacent to U.S. Forest Service administered lands.

The northeast unit is bounded on the east by a road along the Hat Creek Rim and on the south and west by the National Forest boundary.

The southeast unit is bounded by the same Hat Creek Rim Road on the east and National Forest lands on the south and west.

The southwest parcel is adjacent to the National Forest boundary on the east side, bounded by private lands containing several homes on the south, and by ranch lands on the west and north. It is adjacent to State Highway 89 on the southwest corner.

The northwest unit is bounded by National Forest land on the east and private lands on the north, west, and south. These private lands are primarily ranch lands. The north end of the unit is approximately one quarter of a mile south of a paved country road. The total area of all four parcels is 760 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire area within the inventoried unit is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Each parcel is adjacent to the national forest lands recommended for allocation to wilderness by the Forest Service's RARE II process.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The general landform consists of old lava flows, ridges, and depressions ranging from flat to relatively steep with the two western parcels sloping sharply to the west before leveling off. Vegetation occurs in scattered stands and is best described as sparse. Soils are shallow and most commonly occur in the numerous cracks and fissures of the lava flows found on the two western units and on the flattened upper portion of the two easternmost units. Some sinkholes occur in the northwest parcel and a few have water year round. In general no outstanding topographic or geological features occur, and no known local landmarks have need identified.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Cinder Butte area appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. The natural land formation effectively limits access of ORV's, and as a result no ways are present within the unit boundaries. Soils are shallow or non-existant and any foot travel which has occurred

within the area has not resulted in trails being formed. The flat area adjacent to the Hat Creek Rim Road on the east boundary has some evidence of human activity in the form of barbed wire livestock control fences. The northeast parcel has approximately 145 acres of its total 175 acres leased for grazing. The southeast parcel is totally included in a grazing lease. Approximately 20 acres of that parcel has been treated to improve livestock grazing by removal of juniper trees and seeding with forage grasses. The land treatment consisted of piling and windrowing juniper trees using crawler tractors. This practice and resultant soil disturbance significantly altered the natural condition of this parcel and therefore, it has been removed from future consideration as a part of a Wilderness Study Area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation within three parcels are not considered to be outstanding.

One half of the northeast parcel is separated from adjacent Forest Service lands by the Hat Creek Rim and is a different landform. The road along the east boundary detracts from the solitude of the unit and confines activity.

The northwest parcel is flat and approximately 600 feet from a paved county road. It is adjacent to privately owned and operated ranch properties. These associated activities intrude heavily on the solitude of the parcel and restricts movement within the area.

The southwest parcel is adjacent to State Highway 89 and has an access road and dwellings constructed along its southern border. Ranching operations exist along the western boundary.

Due to these situations these areas have not been designated as Wilderness Study Areas.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Few statements or comments were received pertaining to this unit. No comments which specifically addressed inventory criteria were received. Most comments only expressed personal opinions regarding wilderness designation of public lands.

No new information was revealed and no change in the proposed decision to eliminate this unit from the wilderness review was made.

CA-030-402 Tunnel Ridge
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Tunnel Ridge Intensive Inventory Unit has been examined and a Wilderness Study Area boundary determined. The total area of the Intensive Inventory Unit is 6651 acres and the area of the proposed WSA is 2397 acres. The east and north boundary of the WSA is the line between National Forest and BLM administered lands. The northwest boundary and a portion of the west boundary is also the National Forest boundary. The west WSA boundary line begins at Rarick Gulch, follows the USFS-BLM boundary sourh approximately one-half mile to a ridgetop south of Rarick Gulch, proceeds generally southeast along the ridge until it reaches a point overlooking Conrad Gulch, then turns southwest following the ridge south to Little Bally. From this point the boundary generally follows a road which descends from Little Bolly to Clear Gulch and then follows Clear Gulch northeast to the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire area encompassed by the WSA boundary consists of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The above described northwest, north and west boundary is adjacent to National Forest lands. These National Forest lands have been reclassified as further planning in the RARE II process by a recent Forest Service decision. Verbal confirmation of this action was received from the Forest Service.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Tunnel Ridge WSA is located on the middle portion of the west slope of Weaver Bolly Mountain. Soils are volcanic in origin and are deep, well developed, and relatively fertile. North exposures, drainage bottoms and moist sites support sawtimber size stands of douglas fir and ponderosa pine.

The drier slopes are covered with dense stands of mountain brush including sagebrush, manzanita, and buckbrush.

Slopes are very steep and access is available only by foot. No roads penetrate the WSA boundary. The headwaters of Rarick Gulch and West Branch are located within the unit.

The intrusion of a complex road network on the south end of the unit and in Conrad Gulch to the west is not visible from within the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This proposed WSA is definitely natural in physical characteristics. The general area shows

heavy mining activity and as a result has lost its natural characteristics. Some minor prospecting activities have occurred within the WSA boundary but do not impair its natural characteristics. No other intrusions in the WSA have been observed and no known impairment of wilderness values is present. In general, this unit appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature and retains its primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

To analyze these opportunities the land area included in the Intensive Inventory unit was evaluated in conjunction with the USFS adjacent RARE II area. The steep uneven topography of the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. From within the proposed WSA boundary a visitor can also experience an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. Traditional forms of recreation including hiking, backpacking, and camping are available and are considered outstanding. Presence of vegetative cover and water and the variety of terrain provide opportunity for a wide range of experiences for the visitor.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments and input on this unit were varied. Several comments described location of roads, mining activities and ditches and stated that these adversely affected the natural characteristics of the area. Many comments expressed the opinion that the WSA boundary should be extended to include all land within the Intensive Inventory unit except the immediate area impacted by the roads and ditches. Many comments were received which were not relative to the inventory phase of the Wilderness Review. Some comments stated that the intire unit should be classified as a WSA since it is adjacent to US Forest Service RARE II areas.

The field inventory of the Tunnel Ridge unit accurately located the above described roads and ditches and confirmed previously determined roadless area boundaries. The area west of Tunnel Ridge was checked on the ground and eliminated from further consideration as a WSA because it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation when compared to other areas of like kind. Due to this information and analysis of public input no changes were made in the original WSA boundary.

CA-030-501 Yolla Bolly
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bordered on the north and west by National Forest lands and on the east and south by private ownership. The unit is one section totaling approximately 640 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

All of the included area is administered by BLM. No inholdings of private land are present. The National Forest lands adjacent to the west side of the unit are a part of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is characterized by steep slopes and ridges formed by the drainages traversing the area from northwest to southeast. The aspect is generally south with the intermittent streams draining into Cottonwood Creek just south of the unit boundary. The dominant geographic feature of the immediate vicinity is Tomhead Mountain, with a peak elevation of 6757 feet. It is located approximately 2 miles to the north on National Forest land. Elevation ranges from 3000 feet to 5000 feet within the inventory unit.

Vegetation consists of mountain chaparral and manzanita brush with scattered occurrences of digger pine and ponderosa pine.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature rather than man. The exception is the fuelbreak constructed in 1976, during a wildfire. This fuelbreak is not presently maintained and will likely be covered by natural vegetation in a short time, probably within ten years. The unit has no other intrusions which would impair the suitability for wilderness designation. Access and terrain have restricted activities primarily to travel by foot or horseback. No active or abandoned mining operations are present.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

When viewed in comparison to other parcels of land in the same physiographic land province, this unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit offers traditional kinds of primitive recreation experiences, but these are not found to be superior or prominent when compared to like areas. While solitude is available it was determined to be less than outstanding.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Relatively few public comments were received on this unit. Some comments offered specific information on natural characteristics of the area. A few favored including the unit as a WSA

on the basis that it is adjacent to an existing wilderness area and did not address inventory characteristics.

Field checks of this unit revealed no new information and none was received as a result of the public review period. (No change in the proposed decision to eliminate the unit from further consideration in the Wilderness Review process has been made)

CA-030-503 Ishi
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area, the Ishi unit, is bounded on the north by public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and by private lands on all other boundaries. The major portion of the unit lies in a canyon formed by Deer Creek. The canyon rim and Deer Creek Flat comprise the boundary between the BLM administered land and private lands. The north boundary is an unsurveyed line located midway between the canyon rim and Deer Creek. The unit is basically rectangular in shape due to the land ownership pattern and covers 200 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It is adjacent to national forest lands recommended for wilderness through that agency's RARE II inventory process.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Ishi unit consists of a relatively broad shallow canyon with steep walls and heavy vegetative cover. The area is extremely rocky, and soils are volcanic in origin. Oak brush is the dominant vegetation with some scattered digger pine and juniper occurring. Access is extremely difficult due to the size and shape of rocks and heavy vegetation. Several natural caves occur within the area. The area is used heavily by deer and small mammals. The general vicinity has had heavy prehistoric use, and recent Indian cultural sites are present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit is essentially natural in character. The terrain and vegetation limit access to foot travel on that part of the unit lying within the canyon. No mining activity, logging, ORV use, or other activities have occurred which could impair the natural characteristics of this unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The Ishi unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude when considered as part of the larger Forest Service RARE II designation. The terrain and vegetation provide isolation.

The traditional wilderness experiences are possible within the Ishi unit and an excellent opportunity for historical study exists.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received on this unit almost entirely supported the Bureau's proposed WSA designation. Many referred to the natural characteristics and outstanding opportunities for solitude found in the unit. Several comments discussed preservation of cultural values which while not applicable to the inventory process will be useful in the study phase of the Wilderness Review.

CA-030-504 Oroville Lake
(Map 03-C)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the east and north by public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, on the south by a low flat ridge running generally southeast, and on the west by a private land boundary line. A short portion of the east boundary is adjacent to private land on the south end of the unit. This parcel totals 68 acres.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire area within the unit boundary is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The adjacent National Forest land has been classified as a further planning unit by the RARE II inventory process.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The east half of this unit consists of a steep slope located on the upper half of the canyon wall formed by the Middle Fork of Feather River. The west portion of the unit is flat providing ease of access from adjacent private lands. Aspect is generally east and no major topographic features exist within the unit due to its small size. Vegetation consists of scattered digger pine, low elevation brush, and grass species. The unit is essentially a rocky steep portion of Bald Rock Canyon, the dominant physiographic feature of the local area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This unit has some natural characteristics within the delineated boundary. The terrain for the most part is very steep and therefore, has had little use that would impair natural conditions. Some ORV use has occurred in the west portion of the unit but does not adversely affect the natural characteristics.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

No outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined recreation experience exists within this unit. Foot travel is limited by the small size of the unit and little opportunity for solitude exists because of low scattered vegetation and lack of local variations in topography.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Few comments were received on this unit. Those received favored including this unit as a WSA solely on the basis of its association with the adjacent RARE II area classified "Further Planning" by the USFS. Some comments regarding the natural characteristics of the unit were received.

The unit was originally dropped from further consideration as a WSA due to lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

No new information was received during the public comment period and there was no change in the proposed decision to eliminate the unit from the Wilderness Review process.

CA-040-102 NORTH FORK AMERICAN RARE II CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-K)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the west, south, and north by private lands. On the east the unit adjoins RARE II Unit 5-262, North Fork American, designated for further planning by the U.S. Forest Service.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 50 acres of BLM-administered public lands. There is no non-public land located within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit contains a dense forest of pines, scrub oak, and manzanita. The unit's topography is composed of three steep canyons sloping into the North Fork of the American River Canyon. Large rock outcrops are located along both sides of the river throughout the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

There are very minimal imprints of man's work present within the unit. Some mining exploration has occurred but revegetation indicates the disturbances occurred over 50 years ago. A partially abandoned foot trail passes through the northern end of the unit. These activities have not degraded the naturalness of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its relatively primitive character and the adjacent RARE II roadless area. The dense vegetation and high degree of topographic relief offer many opportunities for solitude. The large size of the combined units, varied topography and the North Fork of the American River provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments were received on this unit. Most agreed with our findings, while one indicated the unit was too small to be a wilderness area. The unit is contiguous with a USFS RARE II unit and consequently meets the size requirements for a Wilderness Study Area. No changes were made to our inventory decisions as a result of these comments.

CA-040-201 TUOLUMNE RIVER RARE II CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-K)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit includes five separate parcels of contiguous, roadless, BLM-administered land which adjoin RARE II Unit 5-258, Tuolumne River, designated for further planning by the USFS. Four of the parcels adjoin the RARE II unit on one side, while private lands and USFS-administered lands surround the parcels on other sides. The largest parcel adjoins the RARE II unit on the east, private lands on the north and south, and continues to the Ward's Ferry Bridge on the west. The Bureau of Land Management does not have surface management jurisdiction on the lands within the Don Pedro Project and these lands are excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. As a result of the intensive inventory, additional land was added to this unit from initial inventory unit CA-040-204.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 3,005 acres of BLM-administered public lands. There is one 28 acre tract of non-public land within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of the unit involves the steep sloping canyons of the Tuolumne River and its tributaries. The northern most parcel of land includes Mount Eaton and the North Fork of the Tuolumne River. Elevations range from approximately 800 feet to 3,100 feet above sea level. Vegetation in the area includes pines, chamise, scrub oak, manzanita, and many annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The area is essentially in a primitive and undisturbed condition. Some mineral exploration has occurred in the unit and a few trails and ways related to this previous mining activity exist. The extreme topographic variety in the unit has precluded any significant physical change by man. Mining exploration and related developments surrounding Mount Eaton in portions of Sec. 16, 17, and 20, T. 1 N., R. 16 E., resulted in excluding a portion of the roadless area from the Wilderness Study Area. Imprints of man's work are not substantially noticeable in the remainder of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The dense vegetation in the unit and the large amount of topographic variety offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit includes the Tuolumne River and some of its tributaries. These waterways offer outstanding opportunities for various types of water-related primitive and unconfined recreation including river running, photography of native flora, and general sightseeing. These primitive activities are further enhanced by the adjacent RARE II roadless area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

This unit received several comments, most of which indicated general support for our draft WSA designation. Two comments were received which indicated the Tuolumne River should be impounded for irrigation purposes. These comments as well as comments received on mineral and wildlife values are study phase issues and will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review procedure.

Several additional comments related to extending the boundary of the unit to the Ward's Ferry Road. The unit originally extended to an underground telephone line. Further analysis revealed the underground telephone line was not a substantial imprint of man's work and the Wilderness Study Area was extended to the Ward's Ferry Road. The Don Pedro Reservoir withdrawal, over which the Bureau of Land Management does not have surface managment jurisdiction, also partially serves as the unit boundary on the west end of the unit.

One remaining comment indicated this unit was too small for wilderness. The unit, when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II unit, meets the size criteria for a Wilderness Study Area.

CA-040-202 FERGUSON RIDGE RARE II CONTIGUOUS
(MAP 04-K)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is a small parcel of BLM-administered public land which borders the Sierra National Forest on the east and north. The unit borders additional BLM-administered public lands on the south and west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit was included as an intensive inventory unit due to an adjacent RARE II area. The RARE II area, 5-240, was recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service. The adjacent BLM-administered public lands do not contain 5,000 roadless contiguous acres, nor is the area of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments received on this unit agreed with our findings. One of the comments also voiced the position that Mariposa County presently had enough wilderness. This comment does not relate to inventory criteria and subsequently did not affect our decision at this time.

Additional comments indicated the unit should be studied even though the adjacent RARE II unit was recommended for non-wilderness by the USFS. The unit does not meet the size criteria for a Wilderness Study Area because the RARE II lands have not been identified to have wilderness or potential wilderness values. RARE II areas were based on the identification of roadless, undeveloped areas, not areas with wilderness values. The identification of wilderness values was an integral part of the RARE II evaluation process completed in January 1979, which allocated the area to non-wilderness.

CA-040-203 MERCED RIVER
(MAP 04-K)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the west and south by private lands and electrical power transmission lines, on the east by the Briceburg Road, and on the north by private lands, USFS-administered lands, and roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 12,835 acres of BLM-administered public land. There are approximately 188 acres of non-public land within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The vegetation of the unit is primarily chamise with some pines and oak occurring along the major drainages. Manzanita, other low shrubs, and annuals also occur at varying densities throughout the unit. The unit includes the Merced River Canyon, the North Fork of the Merced River Canyon, and numerous other small canyons. Elevations vary from approximately 850 to 3,400 feet above sea level.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The area northeast of the Merced River and Quartz Mountain Road contains previous vegetation modification projects, numerous firebreaks, and ways which cumulatively result in a significant detrimental impact on the naturalness of this portion of the unit. Due to this substantial imprint of man, this portion of the unit was removed from the Wilderness Study Area. There are additional firebreaks and ways located in the Wilderness Study Area, but they are substantially unnoticeable.

An abandoned railroad parallels the Merced River through the center of the unit. Other abandoned projects occurring in the canyon include a diversion dam, a powerhouse foundation, and old mining developments. All of these projects have been abandoned and the area can be returned to a substantially natural condition by hand labor and/or natural processes.

The road to private inholdings surrounding Telegraph Hill and the road and mining activities near Sherlock Creek have been excluded from the potential Wilderness Study Area. The area near the western boundary of the unit which includes impounded water from Lake McClure is excluded due to the impacts on naturalness associated with the reservoir.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are found in the numerous canyons and rugged mountains in the unit. Outstanding opportunities for water-related primitive and unconfined types of recreation can be found along the Merced River. Some foot trails currently exist in the unit and provide opportunities for hiking and backpacking.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several conflicting opinions were received on the wilderness suitability of this unit. Some comments supported our draft WSA recommendation, others recommended removing the entire unit from consideration, while additional comments suggested boundary adjustments along various roads and/or mining disturbances. Very few of the comments supplied sufficient information to field identify roads or mining disturbances. The comments which did supply sufficient information resulted in boundary adjustments in the northeast corner of the unit and near Sherlock Creek.

An additional comment dealt with the position of Mariposa County on wilderness in general. This comment does not relate to inventory phase criteria and will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review procedures.

CA-040-207 STANISLAUS RIVER
(MAP 04-K)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit contains four separate parcels of BLM-administered public lands located near the Stanislaus River Canyon in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The largest parcel is bordered by private lands and USFS lands and is located between the Camp Nine powerhouse and the south fork of the Stanislaus River. There are also roadless lands within the Stanislaus National Forest contiguous with this parcel. The three smaller parcels are located between the south fork of the Stanislaus River and the Parrotts Ferry Bridge crossing of the Stanislaus River. The two largest parcels contain lands included within the New Melones Project as reflected on Map 04-K.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is approximately 99 percent public lands, with a small 20-acre inholding of private land.

The three smaller parcels of land within the unit located between the south fork of the Stanislaus River and the Parrotts Ferry Bridge are not of sufficient size for wilderness management. Two of the parcels are 40 acres in size, while the third parcel is divided into several smaller parcels by the Parrotts Ferry Road and the New Melones Project. The largest parcel, located between Camp Nine and Parrotts Ferry is also divided into several parcels by the New Melones Project, roads and powerlines.

The New Melones Dam was authorized by Congress in the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1962, 58 Stat., 89, 76 Stat., 1180, and will impound approximately 2.4 million acre-feet of water to an elevation of 1080 feet m.s.l. This Congressional authorization predates the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which directs BLM to identify public land with wilderness characteristics. The specific authorization to inundate the reservoir area controls over the general provisions of FLPMA. Therefore any lands whose suitability for wilderness would be impaired by the reservoir inundation cannot be considered for wilderness study. This is specifically spelled out in Section 701 (f) and (g) of FLPMA which provides that: "...nothing in this Act shall be deemed to repeal any existing law by implication." Designation of a portion of the proposed New Melones reservoir as a wilderness study area with the possibility of permanent wilderness designation in the future would repeal by implication those portions of the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1962 authorizing construction and full utilization of New Melones.

Section 701(g) provides: Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting or restricting the power and authority of the United States or ...(4) as superseding, modifying, or repealing, except as specifically set forth in this Act, existing laws applicable to the various Federal agencies which are authorized to develop or participate in the development of water resources... Designation by BLM of a portion of New Melones Reservoir as a Wilderness Study Area would interfere with the "existing law" authorizing the Federal Government to construct and operate New Melones.

For these reasons, Congress' specific authorization of the New Melones Dam and Reservoir overrides the wilderness review provisions of FLPMA. The intensive inventory of this unit cannot consider the lands within the New Melones Project. This eliminates from wilderness inventory or consideration a corridor which includes the Stanislaus River and other lands within the New Melones Project.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit includes riparian, chaparral and woodland plant communities. The primary vegetation varies with area and includes chamise, pine, and oak. Numerous annuals also occur throughout the unit. The topography varies from approximately 800 to 2,900 feet above sea level and includes rolling foothills and side canyons of the Stanislaus River.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

As previously mentioned, the three small parcels of land involved in this unit between the south fork of the Stanislaus River and the Parrotts Ferry are not of sufficient size for wilderness management. This is primarly due to roads, the New Melones Project and impacts on the area's naturalness which divide the lands into parcels too small for wilderness management.

The remaining and largest portion of the unit is located between the Camp Nine powerhouse and the south fork of the Stanislaus River and is also divided into several parcels by powerlines, roads, and the New Melones Project. The largest parcel of land not dissected by the New Melones Project or impacts on naturalness is approximately 1485 acres. The lands within this parcel start approximately one half way up the east side of the Stanislaus River Canyon and extend upward to the Stanislaus National Forest. The unit does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous roadless public lands even when considered with Stanislaus National Forest lands.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The exclusion of the New Melones Project Area, including the Stanislaus River, from the inventory unit eliminates the outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. This opportunity is dependent upon the Stanislaus River, which BLM does not have authority to inventory for wilderness characteristics.

Opportunities for solitude, while present in some portions of the unit, are not considered outstanding due to the narrow configuration of the portion of the unit not affected by the New Melones Project or impacts on naturalness.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

This unit has received a large amount of public concern, which is overwhelmingly in support of Wilderness Study Area designation. Only three comments were received which indicated the unit or portions thereof should not be a Wilderness Study Area. These three comments pertained to impounding water for irrigation purposes, which did not affect our decision due to the exclusion of the Stanislaus River from the wilderness inventory.

The numerous other comments mentioned the wilderness attributes of the unit and illustrated general public support for wilderness designation of the unit. The comments primarily dealt with the important primitive recreation values in the area, including hiking, fishing, spelunking, river running, and general sight-seeing. Many comments also dealt with the unique land form of the area, including varied limestone formations and the wild quality of the Stanislaus River. The majority of these comments pertain directly to the Stanislaus River and not to values in the lands being inventoried by BLM.

Several comments also responded to our previous statement that the New Melones Projects would eliminate the outstanding quality of the primitive and unconfined types of recreation available on the Stanislaus River. This statement is further clarified in previous sections of this narrative.

CA-040-301A PANOCHE HILLS NORTH
(MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the west by the Panoche Access Road, on the north by a powerline right-of-way, on the south by a livestock managment road and on the east by non-public lands. Additional land was added to the unit during the intensive inventory from Unit CA-040-304. This unit is the northern portion of Unit CA-040-301, which was divided into two separate units along a livestock management road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 6,677 acres of BLM-administered public lands. There are no non-public inholdings located within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit includes very steep rugged terrain accentuated by intermittent creeks. Elevations vary from approximately 800 to 2,600 feet above sea level. Vegetation with the unit is primarily annual grasses, interspersed with low-growing forbs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit remains relatively free from man's influence. There are numerous improved springs, water impoundments, silt basins, and other wildlife management facilities located within the unit. Most of these facilities are accessible by unimproved ways. These improvements and ways do not detract from the naturalness of the unit. One wildlife guzzler located in Sec. 34, T. 14 S., R. 11 E., is accessible by a road and the road and guzzler are excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. A portion of the unit in Sec. 1, 11, 12, 13, and 14, T. 14 S., R. 11 E., is isolated from the Wilderness Study Area by livestock management roads and is also excluded. A mine in Sec. 14, T. 14 S., R. 11 E., and its associated access road is also excluded and partially serves as the southern boundary of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The terrain variety and the steep canyons along the intermittent creeks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area provides opportunities for recreational pursuits requiring a grassland community and steep rugged terrain. This includes hunting, hiking, and bird-watching.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several statements were received on this unit which dealt with minerals, wildlife, and the proximity of roads outside the unit. These are all study phase issues and will not be evaluated until the study phase of the wilderness review procedures. Additional comments indicated general public support for designation of the unit as a Wilderness Study Area, but provided insufficient information to warrant inventory changes.

CA-040-301B PANOCHE HILLS SOUTH
(MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the west by the Panoche Access Road, on the north by a livestock management road, and on the south and east by non-public lands. Additional land was added to this unit during the intensive inventory from Unit CA-040-304. The unit is the southern portion of Unit CA-040-301 which was divided into two separate units by a livestock management road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The Wilderness Study Area contains approximately 11,267 acres of BLM-administered lands. There are 80 acres of non-public inholdings within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit includes very steep rugged terrain accentuated by intermittent creeks. Elevations vary from approximately 800 to 2,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation within the unit is primarily annual grasses, interspersed with low-growing forbs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit remains relatively free from man's influence. There are numerous improved springs, water impoundments, silt basins, and other wildlife management facilities located within the unit. Most of these facilities are accessible by unimproved ways. These improvements and ways do not detract from the naturalness of the unit. A portion of the intensive inventory unit is located west of the Panoche Access Road and is isolated and therefore excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. A mine in Sec. 14, T. 14 S., R. 11 E., and its associated access road are also excluded and partially serves as the northern boundary of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The terrain variety and the steep canyons along the intermittent creeks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area provides opportunities for recreational pursuits requiring a grassland community and steep rugged terrain. This includes hunting, hiking, and bird-watching.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several statements were received on this unit which dealt with minerals, wildlife, and the proximity of roads outside the unit. These are all study phase issues and will not be evaluated until the study phase of the wilderness review procedure. Additional comments indicated there were powerlines within the unit. Field investigation indicated the described powerlines were outside the unit's boundaries. The remaining comments illustrated general public support for designation of the area as a Wilderness Study Area, but provided insufficient information to warrant inventory changes.

CA-040-303 PINNACLES WILDERNESS CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit contains five separate parcels of contiguous, roadless, BLM-administered lands which adjoin the Pinnacles National Monument Wilderness Area. All of the units adjoin the wilderness area on one side and private lands on the other three sides. As a result of the intensive inventory, additional land was added to this unit from Units CA-040-304 and CA-040-306.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 5,838 acre Wilderness Study Area is entirely BLM-administered public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

All of the separate parcels contain steep rugged topography surrounding small canyons. The topography of the unit varies from approximately 800 to 2,750 feet above sea level. The primary vegetation of the unit is chamise with some oak and pine occurring along intermittent creeks in the area. The separate parcels of the unit blend in naturally with the rugged terrain within Pinnacles National Monument Wilderness Area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The primary imprint of man's work within the unit is associated with firebreaks constructed along some ridgelines. Some vegetation manipulation has occurred in the southern parcel of the unit. Portions of the unit located north and east of the Pinnacles Wilderness were burned during the summer of 1978. During fire control operations, numerous firebreaks were constructed but have been reseeded and should return to natural conditions. The firebreaks and vegetation manipulation project are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the naturalness of the unit. Recent field investigations identified several livestock management roads located in the two parcels of the unit north of Pinnacles which isolate and exclude portions of Sec. 8, 9, 10, 14, 16 and 17, T. 16 S., R. 7 E., from the Wilderness Study Area. There are also two deadend livestock management roads in Sec. 8, 9 and 16, T. 16 S., R. 7 E., which are excluded. An access road to a livestock tank in Sec 35, T. 17 S., R 7 E., also isolates and therefore excludes a portion of the unit from the Wilderness Study Area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation found within the unit are closely associated with the Pinnacles Wilderness and the primitive character of the entire area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many varied comments were received on the wilderness suitability of the unit. Two comments which disagree with our findings were recently field verified and resulted in minor boundary adjustments in the two northern parcels. Additional comments expressed concern over wildlife values, fire management and the amount of wilderness in the area. These are study phase issues and will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review procedures. One comment indicated the unit was not of sufficient size for wilderness management. The unit is contiguous with the NPS Pinnacles Wilderness and consequently meets the size requirement for a Wilderness Study Area.

CA-040-305A BLACK BUTTE RARE II CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the south and west by the Los Padres National Forest RARE II unit 5-102, Black Butte, which is designated for further planning. The unit adjoins private lands on the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This 40 acre Wilderness Study Area is entirely BLM-administered public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This small 40 acre parcel is a very steep east facing slope lying adjacent to higher terrain in the Los Padres National Forest. The vegetation is primarily pine and oak trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

There are no imprints of man's work visible within the unit. The area was burned during the Marble Cone Fire. The unit retains its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation found within the unit are closely associated with the adjacent RARE II unit and the primitive character of the entire area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received on this unit which resulted in any inventory changes. Most comments received pertained to study phase issues (mineral values) or did not provide sufficient information to adequately field check. Two comments were received stating the unit was too small for wilderness. Due to the contiguous RARE II area the unit meets the size requirements for a Wilderness Study Area.

CA-040-305B BEAR MOUNTAIN RARE II CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit contains three separate parcels of contiguous, roadless, BLM-administered lands which adjoin the Los Padres National Forest RARE II Unit 5-103, Bear Mountain. This RARE II unit was recently designated for further planning.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 3,198 acre Wilderness Study Area includes three separate parcels of BLM-administered public lands. There are no non-public lands within the unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unit is dominated by very steep rugged terrain accentuated by intermittent streams located in the canyon bottoms. The unit is heavily overgrown with chamise, which is the predominant vegetation in the unit. Some small pockets of annual grasses occur in the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit has generally retained its natural character. A television translator station and associated access road is located in Sec 33, T. 19 S., R. 5 E. The translator station is small and is not a noticeable intrusion on the landscape. A way crosses the center of the western parcel of the unit in an east-west direction. There are also a few firebreaks located within the unit. Portions of the unit were burned during the summer of 1977. The Wilderness Study Area excludes the television translator station and the associated access road. A portion of the unit in Sec 35, T. 19 S., R. 5 E., is isolated from the Wilderness Study Area by a road and is also excluded.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation within the unit are closely associated with the adjacent RARE II unit and the primitive character of the entire roadless area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments received on this unit dealt with grazing and mineral values. These are study phase issues and will be evaluated during the study phase of the wilderness review procedure. Two additional comments indicated the unit was too small for wilderness. Due to the contiguous RARE II unit the area meets the size requirements for a Wilderness Study Area.

CA-040-305C BEAR CANYON RARE II CONTIGUOUS (MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by the Los Padres National Forest RARE II Unit 5-104, Bear Canyon, which is designated for further planning. Federal lands administered by the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation are located to the south, State lands to the west, and private lands to the east of the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 318 acre Wilderness Study Area is entirely BLM-administered public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of the unit slopes upward in a northerly direction to higher elevations within Los Padres National Forest. An intermittent creek partially forms the western boundary of the unit. Pine and oak trees along with chamise are the major types of vegetation found within the unit. The unit's elevation varies from 1,800 to 3,000 feet above sea level.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally retains its natural character. There are firebreaks located in the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable. Man is a visitor to the area but has not significantly changed the primeval character of the unit. Portions of the unit burned during the summer of 1978.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation found within the unit are closely associated with the adjacent RARE II unit and the primitive character of the entire roadless area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Of the comments received on the unit, two indicated the unit was too small for wilderness while others addressed mineral values or illustrated public support for designation of the unit as a Wilderness Study Area. The unit meets the size criteria for a Wilderness Study Area when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II unit. Mineral values and general public support will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review procedures.

CA-040-308 VENTANA WILDERNESS CONTIGUOUS
(MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the south by the Ventana Wilderness Area administered by the Los Padres National Forest. Private lands border the unit on the north, east, and west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is entirely BLM-administered public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The primary vegetation of the unit is chamise interspersed with buck brush and manzanita. Large pines, oaks, and sycamores occur along the creeks. The elevation of the unit varies from approximately 1,000 feet to 2,600 feet above sea level. The unit is associated with portions of Black Rock Creek, the South Fork of Black Rock Creek, and a ridge running between the two canyons.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The natural condition of this unit has been preserved and it appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation found within the unit are associated with the adjacent wilderness area and the primitive character of the entire roadless area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Some comments received on this unit supported our findings and/or recommendations. An additional comment dealt with the impact of a powerline outside the unit. The effect of improvements outside the unit boundary are not inventory considerations and will be analyzed during the study phase of the wilderness review procedure.

CA-040-309 SAN BENITO MOUNTAIN NATURAL AREA
(MAP 04-L)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit involves the 1,500 acre San Benito Natural Area located within San Benito County. No non-public lands are located within this unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless public land and includes two roads, a powerline, and a communication site. This unit, even when considered with contiguous public lands outside the Natural Area, is not suitable for consideration as wilderness due to size and the impacts of man. The unit will be reported as non-suitable for wilderness.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two comments were received on this unit; one agreed with our findings, while the other indicated the unit should be added to the inventory but offered no supportive information. No changes were made to our inventory decisions as a result of public comments received.

CA-050-111 (Chemise Mountain)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This Study Area is located within the designated King Range National Conservation Area just south of Shelter Cove. It includes the 3,941 acre Chemise Mountain Primitive Area and some of the contiguous roadless lands. The southern boundary is contiguous to the proposed Sinkyone State Wilderness area near Bear Harbor; the east is bounded by the Bear Harbor Road, Whale Gulch Road, and Whale Gulch; the north by the Shelter Cove Road and Shelter Cove development; and the west by the Pacific Ocean.

The 3,941 acre Chemise Mountain Primitive Area was designated an Instant Study Area (ISA) in 1976 with the passing of FLPMA. The ISA is not of sufficient size to meet wilderness 2(c) criteria as directed in Sec. 603 of FLPMA. This primitive area is a part of the 60,000 acre King Range National Conservation Area designated by Congress in 1974 following acceptance of a plan for management and acquisition of lands within the area.

Due to this relationship with the rest of the King Range National Conservation Area, Chemise Mountain Primitive Area and contiguous lands are being intensively inventoried for wilderness characteristics in conjunction with Inventory Units CA-050-112 and CA-050-113.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 70% of the area is public land. Private land is scattered along the north and east boundaries and in the Whale Gulch area on the south.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

General topography is steep and rugged. Elevation drops 2,600 feet to the ocean in about one-half mile. Major drainages are Chemise Creek and Whale Gulch Creek, both of which drain directly into the Pacific Ocean. The west slope is very steep with Douglas fir dominating the riparian vegetation in the drainages and chaparral on the saddles. There are also several open, steep, grassy meadows. Undergrowth on the east slope was destroyed by fire in 1973, leaving tanoak, madrone, and Douglas fir.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

This area has retained its primeval character, affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. A few firebreaks along the ridge tops are present as a result of the 1973 Finley Creek fire. The firebreaks were seeded with non-indigenous species and planted with native trees. Two developed campgrounds exist along the eastern boundary off Bear Harbor Road. Trails have been constructed from the campgrounds to the top of Chemise Mountain and part way down to the ocean. Two short ways enter the area in the north and one near Whale Gulch. Debris from the wreckage of an airplane was left on a saddle overlooking the ocean following an effort to remove it from the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Topographical and vegetative diversity provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Views to the west of the Pacific Ocean and to the south into the proposed Sinkyone State Wilderness Area enhance opportunities to experience both solitude and spaciousness.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Many of these pointed out the unique features and supplemental values of the unit. Only one individual felt BLM should complete the Instant Study Area report byJuly, 1980, instead of studying wilderness values in this unit along with the remainder of the King Range. Several comments indicated the area's natural condition had been impaired by permanent roads, man-made structures and extensive mining activity. Subsequent field examinations did not substantiate these statements. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries habitat and the effect of wilderness designation on private lands are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations.

CA-050-112 (King Range)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The entire Study Area is within the King Range National Conservation Area boundaries. The area is bounded on the south by the Shelter Cove Road, on the southeast by Horse Mountain Road and Saddle Mountain Road, on the north and northeast by the KRNCA boundary, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Land ownership at present within this area is a mixture of private and public land. Approximately 32,000 acres are public and 10,000 acres are in private hands. The majority of the private land is found in the northern extension, north of Cooskie Creek, and in the south near the Shelter Cove development. When Congress desingated the KRNCA in 1974, they also provided for acquisition of lands within the area. As these private lands become available, and when money is available, they will be added to the public land base within the KRNCA boundaries.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area comprises a diverse landscape ranging from miles of shoreline to steep, rugged mountains and drainages. The two most prominent topographic features are the 25 miles of remote, nearly inaccessible coastline running from the mouth of the Mattole River south to Shelter Cove, and the King Range mountains rising to 4,088 feet at Kings Peak in less than three miles. The area is very steep and rugged with many short, steep streams running to the ocean. Rainfall is abundant, and severe landsliding results from unstable soils and rock formations. Streams branch in a dendritic pattern providing narrow, short ridges and steep canyons. The eastern slopes of the range, while also steep and rugged, are not as severe as the western side. Streams such as Honeydew Creek drain less abruptly into the northerly flowing Mattole River. West facing slopes are densely covered with brush. Conifers are generally found on north facing slopes. Grassy areas are found in the northern portion and at large flat areas along the coast. The beaches abound with sea birds, marine mammals, and associated plant life.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The bulk of the area generally retains its primeval character. The boundaries of the Wilderness Study Area have been changed to exclude those parts of the intensive inventory unit where man's activities have degraded the apparent naturalness. The Lighthouse Road and Jeep Road up to Barksdale Table forms a new boundary in the far north, excluding the private lands to the east. The boundary follows the KRNCA line south to the road along Johnny Jack Ridge all the way to Cooskie Creek, thus excluding areas impacted by past logging operations. The new boundary then follows the Cooskie Ridge Road and Cooskie Ridge to Moorehead Ridge and Fiddle Prairie to the Smith-Etter Road, from the Smith-Etter Road to Honeydew Creek and up Bearwallow Ridge to the King Range Road. A new boundary was also chosen along the south to exclude permanent developments near Shelter Cove and follows the road north of Pepperwood Spring out to Kaluna Cliff. The remainder of the area is relatively free from man's influence, its natural character intact. Man's impacts, which include some short roads, primitive ways, grazing, some logging, and cabins (not determined to be permanent because they are subject to possible acquisition) are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain variety and sheer distance. Overall, this remaining area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The diverse, rugged topography and dense vegetation offer an excellent degree of visual screening that allows the area to accommodate a large number of visitors without reducing opportunities for solitude. Although the topography tends to concentrate recreation activities to the beach area and to developed trails in the mountains, opportunities for a primitive type of recreation are still excellent. Views of the vast Pacific Ocean and surrounding areas enhance opportunities to experience solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Many addressed supplemental values such as: coastal resource; historic features (shell mounds, lighthouse, shipwrecks); unique geology; endangered wildlife (spotted owl, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, mountain lion). Several comments pointed out areas that were no longer natural and the boundaries of the inventory unit were changed to eliminate these significant impacts of man. A few individuals felt the King Range Act of 1974 would have exempted the area from any further wilderness review. When Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976, Section 603 directed BLM to review all roadless areas for wilderness potential; the KRNCA was not excluded from this review. Comments on the importance of timber; wind resources; effect of wilderness designation on private lands; protection of salmon fisheries and wildlife habitat; multiple use management; and, ORV use of the area are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. Campgrounds, roads, and other permanent improvements of man have been excluded from the WSA.

CA-050-113 (King Range, South)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

All lands in the unit are within the King Range National Conservation Area. The southern boundary is the Shelter Cove Road; Horse Mountain Road and the Wilder Ridge Road form the western boundary; the east and north boundaries are formed by the KRNCA and private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 6,280 acres of the unit is public land; the remaining 1,582 acres are currently in private ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Elevations range from 1,000 feet at the Mattole River to 2,800 feet at the top of Queen Peak. Paradise Ridge runs north and south through the center of the unit. Major drainages are the South Fork Bear Creek, Finley Creek, and Nooning Creek. These drainages produce narrow, short ridges and steep canyons. The steep, unstable slopes show signs of slumping and sliding. Grassy meadows occur along the top of Paradise Ridge in the northern portion of the area. Most drainages contain various timber species and hardwoods. A large area to the south burned during the Finley Creek fire in 1973.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Scattered areas contain certain wilderness characteristics, but the overall area does not contain these factors in combination with manageable boundaries which would make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in most of the area. Roads entering the area from the south and from the north to Queen Peak Mine almost bisect the unit. Past mining operations at Queen Peak Mine have significantly altered the landscape in this specific location. Logging operations, road building and construction of a bridge in the Nooning Creek area have altered the natural conditions. Vegetative deterioration and erosion due to overgrazing of livestock has occurred on the north portion of Paradise Ridge. In 1973 a man-caused fire spread through approximately 50% of the area. The land was reseeded with non-native grass and legume species. Two timber sales have occurred and approximately 1,300 acres have been reforested. Two improved campgrounds are located within the unit along the western boundary. These activities have caused the area to loose its primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude in isolated, scattered locations, but not when considering the entire unit. It is difficult for one to be removed and isolated from human activities. Due to the impacts of man and the dispersion of these activities throughout the unit, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most of the comments referred to the King Range in general and were not specifically related to this inventory unit. Several of the comments supporting WSA designation for this area said opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were present in some locations. Additional field checks did not confirm that outstanding opportunities existed to meet wilderness 2c criteria. Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria in this unit agreed with the findings.

CA-050-121 (Gilham Butte)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is irregularly shaped and surrounded by numerous private lands subdivided into 20 and 40 acre parcels. A small road exists along the southeast corner.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 1,543 acre area is 100% public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Gilham Butte is a high point (3050 feet in elevation) along a major ridge separating the drainages of the Mattole River and South Fork Eel River. The butte is the headwater of several smaller creeks. Geologic instability is common. The area has a large stand of old growth Douglas fir and associated vegetative species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally retains its natural condition. One timber sale has occurred on 125 acres, and two small timber trespasses of 25 acres have also taken place. Logging spur ways enter the unit at several locations. The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. There are no permanent improvements or human habitation. Overall, the area has retained its primeval character and influence.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The opportunity for solitude does exist, but it is not outstanding due to the area's small size. Topographic diversity and vegetative covering could screen a small number of users from one another, but if visitor-use were to increase the opportunity for solitude would diminish substantially. Nowhere in the unit is one more than 1/2 mile from private land. There are limited opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A person can hike from one end of the unit to the other in little more than an hour. The irregular shape of the area and close proximity of private lands confine the recreationist to an extremely small area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gilham Butte was added to the Intensive Inventory because of strong public support in accordance with the size exception specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Most of the comments received supported WSA designation to protect the environmental values. Those comments claiming the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation could not be substantiated after additional field examinations. Comments on the importance of adjacent private lands; protection and importance of salmon fisheries and wildlife habitat; watershed; timber values; and local and regional needs are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. Several comments recommended designation of the inventory unit as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

CA-050-131 (Cahto Peak)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's southern boundary is the maintained Kenny Creek Road. The eastern boundary is formed on the south by the Cahto Peak Road and on the north by private land. The Nature Conservancy's Northern Coast Range Preserve is contiguous along a portion of the western boundary. Private lands surround the remainder of the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 5,871 acres of public land. There are no private inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Cahto Peak is situated at an elevation of 4,233 feet. The remainder of the area ranges in elevation from 2,200 feet up to 4,200 feet. Sharp northwest trending ridges are separated by steep-sided, V-shaped canyone. Vegetation is typically mixed evergreen in most of the unit. Hilltops in the northern and southern portions of the unit are covered with oak thickets and brush. The west slopes and major drainages have an abundance of old growth Douglas fir.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

This area contains portions which generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. This is especially evident in the northern part of the area and in the major drainages of Elder Creek and Paralyze Creek. The south and southeastern portions of the unit have undergone extensive alterations caused by timber harvesting and an uncontrolled fire. A way extends north of Stoten Opening along the ridge and is used by a few hunters. A communications site and fire lookout are located at Cahto Peak, but these intrusions cannot be seen from most of the area to the north. Excluding these few intrusions and considering the shape of the unit, it would not be of sufficient size or contain manageable boundaries which would make practical the area's preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Within the major drainages, secluded areas provide a strong feeling of isolation and limited opportunities for primitive recreation. However, the general shape of the unit and the permanent improvements and alterations in the southern portion limit potential for solitude and unconfined movement for the area as a whole.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries and wildlife habitat; watershed; and relationship to contiguous private lands are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. Only public lands administered by BLM are included in the inventory; private lands are not inventoried. Each area of 5,000 acres or more of contiguous public land must have wilderness 2c characteristics to be designated as a WSA. Several comments recommended designation of this inventory unit as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Refer also to the Summary of Public Comments section under Inventory Unit CA-050-134.

CA-050-132 (Red Mountain)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This Study Area is located on Red Mountain along the Cedar Creek drainage, northeast of the town of Leggett. The boundaries of the unit are all formed by adjacent private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 6,173 acre area consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Red Mountain and the Cedar Creek drainage are the dominant topographical features. Elevations range from 1,100 feet at the southwest end of the unit along Cedar Creek to 4,083 feet less than three miles away near the top of Red Mountain. Terrain is diverse, ranging from fairly flat on Red Mountain to rugged, steep drainages dropping abruptly into Cedar Creek canyon. The unit is laden with reddish-brown soils. Concentrations of low-grade nickel are found at the top of Red Mountain and Little Red Mountain. Unusual climatic and soil conditions have resulted in a unique floral assemblage. Various species of pine and fir grow over most of the area in scattered stands with little understory of shrubs. Natural slides on the steep slopes along Cedar Creek have left areas almost bare of vegetation. The area is the type locality for 15 plant species, including 6 bog species. Several rare plants and one rare and endangered species are located on Red Mountain.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Overall, the area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Man's work is noticeable in the northern part of the area where approximately 15 miles of mining roads lead to nearly 30 test pits, some being 100' long, by 25' wide, and 15' deep. About 160 acres in the extreme north part of the area have been logged. A few ways extend a short distance beyond the mining roads.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The varied topography of Red Mountain and ruggedness of Cedar Creek Canyon provide ample separation from other visitors and afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude. From along the slopes of Cedar Canyon, vistas of surrounding mountains present a feeling of vastness, further enhancing the sense of solitude. The area is composed of a diversity of terrain and vegetation which contributes to opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment suggested the northeast boundary was aligned along the wrong road. A recheck supported the earlier finding that this road meets the BLM road definition and a boundary adjustment was unnecessary. Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries habitat, timber production, rare plants and mining potential are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. The issue of the effects of wilderness on adjacent private lands is also appropriate during the study phase.

CA-050-134 (Elkhorn Ridge)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located along Elkhorn Ridge above the South Fork Eel River, southeast of the town of Leggett. Elkhorn Ridge Road forms a portion of the west boundary, Horseshoe Road forms the southern boundary, and Hermitage Road forms a portion of the east boundary. Private lands surround the remainder of the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 2,360 acre area consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Elkhorn Ridge runs north and south on the west side of the South Fork Eel River. Elevations range from 1,200 feet in the bottom of Surveyors Canyon to 2,975 feet at the top of the ridge. Small east and west trending ridges are separated by steep-sided, V-shaped canyons. Oak thickets and brush dominate along the ridge tops, while Douglas fir, hardwoods and associated species cover the majority of the slopes and drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area consists of undeveloped public land retaining its primeval character and influence. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable within the majority of this area. One timber sale has taken place in the center of the unit within Surveyors Canyon.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for either solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding and are limited in this area. The small size and private ownership pattern surrounding the unit tends to confine and hinder freedom of movement and the ability to disperse.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Elkhorn Ridge (CA-050-134) and Brush Mountain (CA-050-135) were added to the Intensive Inventory because of strong public support in accordance with the size exception specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Many comments received supporting WSA designations on both areas referred to wilderness 2c values outside the inventory unit boundaries on private lands and along the South Fork Eel River. Inventory Units CA-050-131, 134, and 135 must each have wilderness 2c values and cannot be considered as one unit during the inventory phase. Private lands also cannot be inventoried for wilderness 2c values; only public lands are inventoried. If private lands between units CA-050-134 and CA-050-135 ever become public land, BLM will study the area using current land use planning processes and wilderness will be one of the uses studied at that time. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon and steelhead habitat, protection of the wild and scenic river, and protection of the surrounding watershed are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. Several of the comments suggested designation of these inventory units as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

CA-050-135 (Brush Mountain)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located along Bald Mountain and Brush Mountain, east of the South Fork Eel River and south of the community of Cummings. The boundaries of the unit are formed entirely of private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 2,880 acre area consists entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Brush Mountain extends north and south on the east side of the South Fork Eel River. Topography is steep and rugged. Elevations ranve from 1,200 feet in the southwest corner of the unit to 3,761 feet less than two miles away at the top of Brush Mountain. Vegetation consists primarily of brush and oak thickets, with some Douglas fir and hardwoods on the north facing slopes in the drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval condition and has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restrictive and not outstanding, due primarily to the small size and shape of the unit which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Refer to Summary of Public Comments under Inventory Unit CA-050-134).

CA-050-211 (Big Butte)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Study Area is bounded on the north by the Forest Service's 11,900 acre Red Mountain RARE II area; on the east by the 6,206 acre Shinbone and 14,025 acre Castle Peak RARE II units; and on the south and west by private lands. Public lands in this unit and the adjacent three RARE II areas are currently undergoing a joint land use allocation study between BLM and the Forest Service.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 9,548 acre area is entirely public lands except for four small parcels of private lands totaling 120 acres. Private lands are not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The most prominent topographic feature is the major ridge trending generally northwest-southeast. This ridge serves as the drainage divide between the Eel River and the Middle Fork

Eel River. The major drainages from the Big Butte watershed are Hulls Creek, Casoose Creek and its tributaries, Antone Creek, Lynch Creek, Peterptor Creek, and Red Rock Creek. Vegetation varies from barren ridges and rocky outcrop associations to riparian plants in the drainages. Flora consists of approximately 20% Douglas fir and pine forests, 20% lower montane Douglas fir, 30% canyon live oak, 10% chaparral, 5% grassland, 5% is barren, 5% white fir, and 10% north oak woodlands.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is due to the area's relatively primitive character and adjacent large RARE II areas. Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations, varied vegetation, and large size of the combined areas which screen users from one another. There are many outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The lack of man-made features provide for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Most public comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries habitat; wind resources; economic impacts; and multiple use are study phase and not inventory phase, considerations. A few comments received referred to the impairment of the area's natural condition because of the presence of extensive mining activity, man-made structures, and permanent roads Further field checks did not substantiate these remarks.

CA-050-212 (Thatcher Ridge)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Study Area is located east of Elk Creek and west of Etsel Ridge. The northern boundary runs along Timbered Ridge and the southern boundary is contiguous to the National Forest's 17,400-acre Elk Creek RARE II area (recently recommended for further planning). The eastern boundary is contiguous to the Forest Service's 12,200-acre Thatcher RARE II area (recently recommended for non-wilderness). Private lands form the boundaries around approximately half of the unit. As a result of the intensive inventory a small piece of BLM land contiguous with the Elk Creek RARE II area was added to this unit from initial inventory unit CA-040-215.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists of 17,187 acres of public land. One 200 acre parcel of private land is located in the northern part of the unit and is not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Most of the area is on a west facing slope, with vegetation consisting mainly of chaparral. Hardwoods and conifers cover east and north facing slopes. A few grassy meadows are scattered throughout the area. The north half of the unit is cut by the Middle Fork Eel River as it flows south. The southern part of this unit is drained to the northwest via Elk Creek. Horse Pasture Ridge joins Long Doe Ridge at Thatcher Butte. Abundant steep, northwest faulting controls the topography.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's activities have impaired portions of this area, but overall, it has retained its primeval character. The southern portion has undergone land manipulations such as herbicide spraying, drilling, and planting of non-native grasses. Three fires have occurred in the vicinity of Horse Pasture Ridge. Many of the ridges throughout the unit have firebreaks. The northern part of the area is in a natural condition, and man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The portion of this unit along the Middle Fork Eel River offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined types of recreation. The river gorge is steep and rugged, allowing the visitor to experience a state of being alone and remote from others. The river also provides outstanding recreation activities such as river running, hiking, backpacking, and bird watching. The remainder of the area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation due to the relatively steep topography, general primitive character of the landscape, and adjacent RARE II area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Comments on the adding of contiguous lands; energy farming; and on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries habitat are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. A few

comments received referred to the impairment of the area's natural condition because of the presence of extensive mining activity, man-made structures, and permanent roads. Further field checks did not substantiate these remarks.

CA-050-213 (Brushy Mountain)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area lies along English Ridge west of Brushy Mountain and east of the Eel River. Private lands surround the entire unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

There is a 640-acre block of State owned land in the middle of this unit and is not included in this inventory. The remainder of the 7,535 acres are public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is situated along the Eel River on a west facing slope below English Ridge and Brushy Mountain. Elevations range from 1,100 feet to 3,900 feet. The Eel River crosses public land at four places. Major drainages into the Eel River are Indian Creek and Fish Creek. The vegetation varies from dense brush to open grasslands. The west facing slope is covered mostly with chaparral. Douglas fir and ponderosa pine are found scattered about in the drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Firebreaks have been constructed in a few areas, and have since been turned into 4WD ways. Two ways enter the southern part of the unit. Grazing has occurred on much of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for either solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited in the area. These opportunities do exist in isolated areas along the Eel River and in some of the canyons, but not in the area as a whole. Private ownership pattern surrounding the unit tends to confine and hinder freedom of movement and the ability to disperse.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All but one comment addressed to specific invnetory criteria agreed with the findings. The one comment supporting WSA designation referred to wilderness 2c values along the river on private lands and suggested certain private parcels be purchased. This is a study phase and not an inventory phase consideration. Comments on the protection and importance of salmon fisheries habitat and multiple use considerations are also appropriate during the study phase.

CA-050-214 (Eden Valley-Middle Fork Eel River)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located east of Eden Valley and west of the Elk Creek drainage. Private lands surround the majority of the unit. The intensive inventory identified a new road on the north side, called Elk Creek Road. This would eliminate approximately 4,000 acres north of this road from further intensive study because of its size being less than 5,000 acres. Mendocino National Forest's 18,900 acre Elk Creek RARE II area is contiguous to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10,731 acres of the area is in public ownership. Two private inholdings of 160 acres each are located near the southern boundary and are not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Thick brush occurs over most of the area. Some grassy meadows with hardwoods are dispersed throughout the unit. Elevations range from 1,000 feet along Elk Creek to 2,800 feet above Toney Creek. Most of the major drainages run east into Elk Creek, which runs north into the Middle Fork Eel River.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character, affected primarily by the forces of nature. A few firebreaks and old jeep trails are present, but the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area is adjacent to the National Forest's 18,900 acre Elk Creek RARE II area, and is relatively primitive in character with outstanding opportunities for solitude provided by topographic and vegetative variations. The density of vegetation in some portions of the unit and the configuration of private lands inhibit primitive recreation opportunities to a small degree. The lack of man-made features over most of the area permits unconfined movement and affords outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments received indicated the area's natural condition had been impaired by permanent roads, man-made structures and extensive mining activity. Subsequent field examinations did not substantiate these comments. Three individuals provided information on roads used by local ranchers. These roads meet the BLM's definition and boundary adjustments have been made accordingly (it is important to note that these roads do not bisect the unit and the area still meets WSA criteria). Comments on the importance of salmon fisheries habitat are appropriate for consideration during the study phase.

CA-050-221 (Scotts Creek, North)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the south by the Mendo-Lake Road, on the west by private lands near the City of Ukiah, on the east by Little Cow Mountain Road and private lands in Scotts Valley, and on the north by private lands next to Highway 20.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 31,677 acres of the area is in public ownership. The remaining 1,200 acres is in private ownership and is not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is within the Mayacmas Mountain Range, dividing the Russian River and Clear Lake watersheds. Chaparral covers approximately 50% of the area. The Maymen-Los Gatos soils account for the large amount of brush. Conifers and hardwoods are present on some north facing slopes and in most stream bottoms. Elevations range from 3,600 feet at the communication site to 1,500 feet in Scotts Creek.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable over most of the area. Mendocino Rock Road nearly bisects the northern portion and is visible except in the bottom of major drainages. The Mendo-Lake Road which forms the southern boundary is visible in many areas of the southern part of the unit. Permanent improvements include two campgrounds and two communication sites along Mendocino Rock Road. Seven permanent reservoirs have been constructed and several water storage tanks are present. Brush conversion projects have occurred along with herbicide spraying and reseeding of non-native species. Controlled burns and recent fires have covered large areas. Firebreaks have been constructed down nearly every major ridge and most of these have been used by 4WD vehicles. Extensive off-road vehicle use has occurred in some areas producing numerous trails, ways, and erosion scars on some slopes. The bottom portions of the Scotts Creek/Willow Creek drainage and a few of the creek bottoms in the northwest are the only areas retaining their primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Overall the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is due to the numerous permanent improvements and impacts of man which cannot be screened from visitors. The roads, communication sites, reservoirs, campgrounds, water tanks, brush conversion projects, and firebreaks can be seen from nearly all portions of the area negating any possibility for finding a secluded place away from the imprint of man. The Scotts Creek drainage, although generally natural, offers only limited opportunities for solitude because the visitor can see the roads and communication sites from many places within the drainage. Opportunities for primitive, unconfined types of recreation are also lacking in the area, due primarily to the confining atmosphere one experiences from the man-made intrusions.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All comments and statements received that were specific in addressing inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Three comments considered study phase criteria not usable in the inventory phase: importance of fisheries habitat, protection of Scotts Creek drainage, and geothermal resources.

CA-050-222 (Scotts Creek, South)
(Map 05-B)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by the Mendo-Lake Road, on the east and west by private land, and on the south by private land and a small portion by Benmore Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 11,576 acres of public land. Two private inholdings, 160 acres at Richabaugh Glade and 120 acres at Lost Valley, are found in the unit and are not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is in the Mayacmas Mountain Range, dividing the Russian River and Clear Lake watersheds. Morrison Creek is the major drainage on the west and drains into the Russian River. Benmore Creek drains the eastern slopes and eventually enters Clear Lake. Chaparral covers approximately 50% of the unit. The Maymen-Los Gatos soils account for the large amount of brush. Conifers and hardwoods are on north slopes and in stream bottoms. Elevations range from 1,400 feet in Morrison Creek to 3,389 feet at the top of Red Mountain.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The impact of man's work is substantially noticeable in some areas, primarily as a result of mining, off-road vehicle activity, and past management activities. Mining in the Red Mountain area has changed the natural conditions considerably. Vehicle ways are numerous in this unit, especially around Red Mountain, Richabaugh Glade, Fourmile Glade and in the Benmore Creek area. Man's influence is also noticeable where spring developments have been constructed, brush conversion and herbicide spraying projects have occurred, and where prescribed burns and reseedings have taken place. Many firebreaks also exist along ridges. The primary areas still retaining their primeval character are in the southeast around the South Fork of Scotts Creek and in the western drainages.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited by the restrictive and confining nature of man's activities on the land. It is difficult to get away from the impacts of man. Solitude can be found in only the few remote canyons. Primitive types of recreation are limited also because of the long, narrow shape of the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Specific comments and statements that addressed inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Four comments considered study phase criteria not usable in the inventory phase: potential for geothermal resources, importance of fisheries habitat, protection of Scotts Creek drainage, and preservation of the area in general to protect surrounding lands.

CA-050-312 (Lodoga Peak)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area lies east of East Park Reservoir and Indian Valley. Private land totally surrounds the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 7,381 acres of public land. There are no private inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography is well defined with a long valley in the center and NW-SE ridges running on both sides. Small tributaries drain into either Wilson Creek, which bisects the northern part of the unit, or Grapevine Creek to the east. Both creeks drain into east Park Reservoir, outside the unit. Vegetation consists primarily of dense brush with open oak-grasslands interspersed in some of the major drainages. Along Wilson Creek and Eggman Canyon, coulter pines, redbud, and oaks are abundant.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of the Lodoga Peak area retains its primeval character and influence and the area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with man's work substantially unnoticeable. A way exists along the small valley and a few firebreaks have been cut along the western boundary.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Limited opportunities exist for either solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Topographic relief and vegetative screening are lacking. Primitive types of recreation are somewhat restricted due to the confining nature of the topography and boundaries of the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All but one comment addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the intensive inventory recommendation. The remaining comment felt the area should receive further study for wilderness because of its relationship to surrounding lands, a study phase consideration.

CA-050-313 (Indian Valley, North)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southern boundary is Bartlett Springs Road, Pacific Ridge Road, and Stove Glade Road; the northern and western boundaries are contiguous to National Forest lands; and the eastern boundary is next to Bear Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists of 6,502 acres of public land. There are no private inholdings.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography is steep at the southern end and levels out farther north. Stanton Creek is the major drainage way leading into Indian Valley Reservoir. There are unique plant communities near Stanton Creek. Rare plant species also occur in the area. Most of the area is covered with dense brush with some isolated stands of pine and a few open, grassy spots. Vegetative manipulation is especially noticeable along the firebreaks.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is in a natural condition, with man's work substantially unnoticeable. There are a few firebreaks extending down ridges and off-road vehicles travel them on occasion, but overall, man's impact upon the landscape is negligible. Contiguous Forest Service lands also show the impact of man with many firebreaks and vegetative manipulations due to fires and resulting management activities.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the area's small size, its lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the view from nearly all points in this area of the man-made Indian Valley Reservoir, opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation activities are limited. The presence of man's impacts on both public lands and national forest lands to the north and west tend to confine and limit primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All but one comment addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the intensive inventory recommendation. The remaining comment felt the area should receive further study for wilderness because of its relationship to surrounding lands, a study phase consideration. One comment agreed with the findings, but expressed a need for preservation of the area because of rare plants and biotic communities.

CA-050-314 (Walker Ridge, West)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the east by Walker Ridge Road, on the west by Indian Valley Reservoir, on the north by Bartlett Springs Road, and on the south by Indian Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public ownership amounts to 8,357 acres. Two private inholdings of 160 acres each are found in the unit and are not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is located on a west facing slope. Ridges extend in an east-west direction with streams draining into Indian Valley Reservoir. Vegetation consists mainly of chaparral. A number of rare plant species have been found in this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's activities have altered the natural landscape so that the area's primeval character is no longer present. Intrusions caused by random off-road vehicle use and firebreak construction have destroyed the natural condition and man's work is substantially noticeable throughout. Three developed campgrounds are located next to the eastern boundary and a large, man-made reservoir forms the western boundary. These improvements have also caused the area to loose its natural appearance.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the past intensive use by off-road vehicles and the construction of a large man-made reservoir that can be observed from nearly anywhere in the area, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not exist. It would be extremely difficult for one to find a secluded place away from others, or find the opportunities for passive recreation activities. The narrow, elongated shape of the area tends to confine the recreationist and further limit opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All but one comment addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the intensive inventory recommendation. The remaining comment felt the area should receive further study for wilderness because of its relationship to surrounding lands, a study phase consideration.

CA-050-315 (Walker Ridge, East)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Bartlett Springs Road on the north, Walker Ridge Road on the west, and by Deadshot Road and Wilbur Springs Road on the South. The east boundary is adjacent to private lands in Bear Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One large private inholding of 640 acres is located in the middle of this area. The rest of the 4,841 acres is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is on an east facing slope with streams draining into Bear Creek. The canyons are steep compared to nearby areas. The ridges drop off in a stair step fashion. Elevations range from 1,300 feet to 3,300 feet at the top of the ridge. Walker Ridge divides the drainage pattern. The east side drains into Bear Valley and the west into Indian Valley Reservoir. Vegetation consists mostly of chaparral. Some rare plants exist in the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area is no longer in a natural condition. Numerous firebreaks extend down the ridges and are traveled on by off-road vehicles. Numerous ways have also been created and are used by off-road vehicle enthusiasts. These activities have altered the natural landscape to the point of being substantially noticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the area's small size, the private land inholding, and the land ownership pattern, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are limited.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the intensive inventory recommendation. Two comments agreed with the findings, but expressed a need for preservation of the area because of rare plants and biotic communities. Two comments asked that the area not be considered as a WSA because of its geothermal potential. These, however, are study phase, rather than inventory phase, considerations.

CA-050-316 (Hough Ridge)
(Map 05-A)

I PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by Bartlett Springs Road, on the south by Benmore Canyon Road and private lands, and on the east by Indian Valley Reservoir. The west side is bounded by the national forest's 5,600-acre Reister Canyon RARE II area (recently recommended for non-wilderness).

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit contains a 400 acre tract owned by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and 640 acres managed by the State of California. The remaining 17,553 acres is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography is characterized by steep, V-shaped canyons running in an east-west direction. The major drainages are in Long Canyon, Catenberg Canyon, and Wilson Glade Canyon. All these canyons drain water into the Indian Valley Reservoir. Most of the vegetation consists of chaparral except for some small grassy glades located in the center of the unit. Elevations range from 2,400 feet along Hough Ridge to 1,400 feet at Bartlett Springs Road.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Past activities have degraded the natural condition in certain portions of the area. Brush control and grass seedings at Wilson Glade and Rocky Ridge, a spring development and small reservoir at Wilson Glade, and Firebreaks along most of the ridges have altered the naturalness of this unit. The canyons, though, have been left alone and uninfluenced by man, so that overall the area has retained most of its primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation can be found in this area, but they are not outstanding. Some of the canyons offer solitude, but overall, most of the area does not. The ridges are traveled by off-road vehicles and the large man-made reservoir is easily observable from all areas except in the steep canyons. Vegetative screening is lacking on the slopes and ridges. Overall, there are limited opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Two comments asked that the area not be considered as a WSA because of its geothermal potential and four comments supported WSA designation based on multiple use of the area. These, however, are study phase, rather than inventory phase, considerations.

CA-050-317 (Rocky Creek-Cache Creek)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This study area lies within the Cache Creek drainage. The southeast portion of the unit is bounded on the east by the Langs Peak Road and on the south by the Rieff-Rayhouse Road. Boundaries for the remainder of the unit are formed by private lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 800 acres, or 2% of the acreage is in private ownership, the remaining 33,982 acres is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is bisected by Cache Creek running in a west to east direction. Numerous streams drain into Cache Creek forming steep, rugged canyons. Significant sliding and slumping is apparent along Cache Creek. Elevations range from 1,200 feet along Cache Creek in the western portion to 3,100 feet on Little Blue Ridge at the southeast part of the unit. Most of the public lands are covered by dense, impenetrable stands of brush. Open grasslands occur along a few of the ridges and in several of the lower elevations along Cache Creek and in many of the drainages. Several rare plant communities have been identified on serpentine soils. Tule elk inhabit portions to the north of the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of the extreme north portion, this area's primitive, undeveloped state has been retained. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable, and it is primarily affected by the forces of nature. Portions of the northern part of the unit have been converted from brush to non-indigenous grasses. The conversions extend down ridges and can be seen from several high points in the area. Two man-made reservoirs were built in connection with the brush conversions to enhance the tule elk habitat. This impacted portion has been omitted from further wilderness consideration. Several major 4WD ways exist along Cache Creek, Perkins Creek Ridge, Trout Creek, and near Baldy Mountain. Firebreaks extend down the ridges below the brush conversions. Firebreaks also extend down the ridge between the drainages of Rocky Creek and Deadman Creek and in the Little Blue Ridge area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in portions of this area, especially along Cache Creek, Perkins Creek, Rocky Creek, and in the Little Blue Ridge area. The ruggedness of the mountains tends to topographically screen visitors from one another. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are also outstanding because of the area's large size, presence of Cache Creek, and diversity of terrain.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. Several comments indicated the area's natural condition had been impaired by permanent roads, man-made structures and extensive mining activity. Subsequent field examinations failed to substantiate these comments. Six comments asked that the area not be considered as a WSA because of its geothermal potential and one comment addressed potential for energy farming. These, however, are study phase, rather than inventory phase, considerations.

CA-050-318 (Blue Ridge)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by Cache Creek, and on the south by the Yolo and Napa County lines. Rayhouse Road, Fiske Creek Road, and Long Canyon form the western border, while the eastern slope faces the towns of Rumsey and Guinda. Private lands are contiguous on all sides except the western border where public lands adjoin the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists entirely of public lands with no private inholdings. Public land acreage amounts to 10,425 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Rocky Ridge is the prominent feature in the area running in a northwest-southeast direction. Rumsey Canyon drains most of the northern portion into Cache Creek. Fiske Creek runs through part of the unit on the west side. Elevations range from 3,038 feet at Lowery Peak, to 600 feet near Cache Creek. Vegetation consists mainly of chaparral, occurring mostly on the lower slopes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Overall this unit is in a natural condition. A small campground is located on the west side along Fiske Creek. A hiking trail is undergoing construction along the ridge. A few firebreaks are located on the far western border. These instrusions do not alter the natural landscape to a substantially noticeable degree and the area has retained its primeval character.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

There are very few opportunities for either solitude or primitive types of recreation. The configuration of the area, located mostly along a narrow, steep ridge, impedes free movement. The lack of vegetative screening along this narrow corridor of public land also makes it difficult for one to find opportunities for solitude. The primary primitive recreation activity would be hiking along the ridge, and this activity is not outstanding because of the trail's short length. The area lacks diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible and does not possess one opportunity which is of outstanding quality.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments addressed to specific invnetory criteria agreed with the findings. Some comments supporting WSA designation referred to multiple use of the area and relationship of surrounding private lands. These are study phase considerations rather than inventory phase criteria. The narrative summary was changed (as was suggested by two comments), to better reflect the findings of the intensive inventory evaluation. Some comments suggested the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the hiking opportunities present. Further field examinations supported the original findings.

CA-050-319 (Knoxville)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the east by Dunnigan Hill Road, on the south by private land and Spruce-Jerusalem Valley Road, and on the west and north by private land.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area contains 5,624 acres of public land. There are two private inholdings of approximately 120 acres each and they are not included in this inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Much of the terrain is characterized by steep, south facing slopes. Round Mountain, at an elevation of 2,240 feet, dominates the area. Jericho Creek and Hole Creek are the major drainages. Slopes are covered with chaparral interspersed with grassland. Oaks and pines grow scattered in a few small drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man has impacted portions of the area to the point that, overall, the natural character is no longer present. Extensive mining activity has occurred at the Red Elephant Mine. Most of the area is laced with ways and trails used by off-road vehicles. A fire burned the area and it was reseeded with grass to replace chaparral species. Grazing has also impacted portions of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely limited. Private ownership pattern tends to confine and hinder freedom of movement and the ability to disperse. Vegetative and topographic screening is lacking over much of the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those comments addressed to specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. The few comments supporting WSA designation referred to geothermal potential of the area and influence of surrounding land. These are study phase considerations rather than inventory phase criteria.

CA-050-331 (Cedar Roughs)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is west of Lake Berryessa and east of Hardin Creek. Pope Creek is to the north and Chiles Valley is located about two miles south of the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area contains 7,183 acres of public land and one parcel of private land consisting of 160 acres. Private lands surround the entire unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This unique area is a large serpentine mound extending in a northwest-southeast direction. A large stand of sargent cypress dominates the vegetation throughout the area. Natural fire scars are evident over most of the unit. Streams on the west slope drain into Hardin Creek, while Trout Creek drains the east slope.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's impact on this area is substantially unnoticeable. The forces of nature dominate the area, and its primeval character is outstanding. A way is located on the eastern edge and a few firebreaks intrude along the ridge line.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in this area, due primarily to its land configuration and naturalness. One can easily find a secluded place to be alone and remote from others. Vegetative screening and topographic relief enhance opportunities for solitude. Primitive types of recreation could be found here, but they are not outstanding. This is due primarily to the area's tendency to confine people to certain locations where vegetation is less dense.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments received indicated the area's natural condition had been impaired by permanent roads, man-made structures and extensive mining activity. Subsequent field examinations did not substantiate these comments. The items referred to must be located well out of the proposed WSA boundary. The remaining comments that addressed specific inventory criteria agreed with the findings. One comment on the area's potential for energy farming is a study phase, not an inventory phase, consideration.

CA-050-332 (Rocky Ridge)
(Map 05-A)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Berryessa Peak Road and Tully Canyon Road border this area on the west. Private lands surround the area to the north, south, and east. Lake Berryessa is located approximately three miles to the south and west of the unit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 7,450 acres of public lands and one 40 acre parcel of private land near the western boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Rocky Ridge bisects this area in a northwest-southeast direction. The west slope drains into Lake Berryessa while creeks on the east slope run into Cache Creek. Berryessa Peak is the major topographic feature. Vegetation consists mainly of chaparral with a few grassy meadows scattered throughout the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Overall the area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Two ways exist, one along Cottonwood Canyon and another along Rocky Ridge. Permanent improvements include a communication site and fire look-out on the boundary line at Berryessa Peak. The southern portion of the unit appears to be more natural than the public lands in the northern part due to instrusions caused by off-road vehicle use in the northern area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Certain portions of the area offer opportunities for solitude, but they are not outstanding. It is very difficult for one to find a remote or secluded place away from others. The permanent facilities at Berryessa Peak are easily observable throughout most of the area, making it even more difficult to find solitude away from man's impact. Primitive types of recreation are limited, due mainly to the area's land configuration which confines one to a narrow strip of public land along Rocky Ridge.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments recommended that the area be deleted from further wilderness considerations. Many of those supporting further consideration were not related to inventory criteria and could not be used to evaluate the area's WSA potential. These comments were on the effects of WSA designation on surrounding private land and multiple use considerations for the area. Both are study phase, and not inventory phase, considerations. Some comments suggested the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the hiking opportunities present. Further field examinations supported the original findings.

CA-060-002, Agua Tibia
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area contains SE¼, E½ of SW¼, SE¼, Sec. 19; and W½ of SW¼, Sec. 20, T. 8 S., R. 1 W. It is bounded on the south by the Agua Tibia Wilderness Area in the Cleveland National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The parcel is 360 acres (7/16 section) of public owned land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The entire unit is a proposed wilderness study area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Steep, heavily vegetated slopes comprise the area. The major peak has an elevation of 2,581 feet. Vegetation is a dense chaparral plant community, including chamise, scrub oak, sugar bush, and California lilac. Pechanga Creek bisects the extreme lower southwest portion.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the steep topography and dense vegetation, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are available. The adjacent Agua Tibia Wilderness Area enhances these opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments agreed with BLM's findings.

CA-060-020A, Beauty Mountain A
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARY

This unit is bounded by the Cooper-Cienega Truck Trail on the west. Nonpublic lands make up the boundaries on the north and east. The Beauty Mountain East Truck Trail is the south boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Most of the area has a south aspect and includes three intermittent streams. The unit is covered with a dense chaparral stand.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Adjacent to the truck trails are 300 foot wide firebreaks. In contrast, the core area has few marks of man. There are two old mine sites in the area, but they show no evidence of having been worked for years. Three trails penetrate the chaparral and provide the only access to the core. In spite of the lack of maintenance and use, the trails are visible because of erosion and the slow rate of revegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit has little opportunity for unconfined types of recreation because of the impenetrable chaparral. The unit's small size and topography also provide little opportunity for solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020B, Beauty Mountain B
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Beauty Mountain East Truck Trail and adjacent firebreak form the north boundary. Nonpublic lands form the east and south boundaries. The west boundary is formed by the Cooper-Cienega Truck Trail.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands. The unit is 4 miles long and varies from 1/2- to 1/8-mile in width.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit drains south into Cooper Canyon. It possesses a dense stand of chaparral.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit is in a natural state. Field examination failed to reveal any roads or mining claims within the unit's boundaries.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the unit's small size (408 acres) and configuration, little opportunity exists for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Neither the topography nor vegetation is capable of effectively screening the presence of other users.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020C, Beauty Mountain C
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Cooper-Cienega Truck Trail is the west boundary. Nonpublic lands make up the north, east, and south boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

An east-southeasterly ridge comprises the unit. The northern portion drains into Cooper Canyon. The southern portion drains into the Chihuahua Valley. The area is covered with thick chaparral.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Few signs of man can be found through the dense chaparral. No evidence of mining claims were found during the field check of the unit. The steep topography is a restraint to vehicle travel.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit is small and provides little opportunity for solitude. The dense, impenetrable chaparral confines recreational opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020D, Beauty Mountain D
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Nonpublic lands border on the east, north, and west. The southern boundary is the Beauty Mountain West Truck Trail.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The long, narrow 731 acres of public land do not encompass private land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The upper hillsides are covered with chaparral. Grass and live oaks extend from Chihuahua Creek part way up the adjacent hillsides.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The transition from chaparral to live oak and grass provides a visual diversity in the area. The unit is in an essentially natural state.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted by the small, confining nature of this area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020E, Beauty Mountain E
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The north boundary consists of the Beauty Mountain West Truck Trail. Nonpublic lands in the Oak Grove Valley, Dodge Valley, and Chihuahua Valley make up the remaining borders to the east, south, and west, respectively.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 2,477 acres of public land contain a mining claim and encompass a small parcel of private land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

There is a transition from steep, chaparral-covered hillsides to the desert scrub in Dodge and Oak Grove Valleys.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The impact of man on the unit is substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restricted by the limited topographic and vegetative screening combined with the unit's small size.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020F, Beauty Mountain F
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Nonpublic lands border the unit on the north, east and west. The Beauty Mountain West Truck Trail borders on the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit lies along the Chihuahua Creek bottomlands and is covered with live oak and grass. A firebreak associated with the truck trail extends into the unit along the south boundary.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Because of its small size, the natural condition of this unit is substantially impacted by the presence of the firebreak along the unit's south boundary.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's extremely small size (20 acres) severely limits any opportunities for solitude or a primitive type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-020G, Beauty Mountain G
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Nonpublic lands border the unit on the south, west, and north. The Cooper-Cienega Truck Trail borders the unit on the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The proposed wilderness study area contains 11,342 acres of public land and encompasses 1,341 acres of private land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of rough, rugged, and steep mountainsides. The predominant features of the unit are Beauty Mountain and Iron Spring Mountain. The predominant vegetative cover is chaparral.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

Essentially this unit is in a natural condition. However, a few breaks in the vegetation show man's past presence. Access routes still lead to a few inactive mining sites within the unit. These routes are eroded and have not been maintained for several years. The routes are difficult to traverse even with a four-wheel drive vehicle; therefore, these routes are classified as ways. Twisting valleys and dense chaparral prevent seeing all but small portions of these access routes at any one time. The major intrusion in the unit is the Pawnee Mine (patented) and associated access road. Several buildings remain from former operations. The buildings and tailings cannot be seen from farther than a quarter of a mile away. Thus, the intrusion is considered to be substantially unnoticeable. Immediately adjacent to the mine's access road are numerous mining claim stakes. Because the mine is patented, the mine area and the associated access road have been encompassed by the proposed wilderness study area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The ruggedness of the terrain and occasional overlooks of small sections of the unit provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Dense chaparral provides a screen from other users. The deteriorating trails within the proposed wilderness study area provide routes for hiking, photography, and nature studies.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments have questioned procedures of using roads to subdivide units, not treating solitude and primitive recreation synonymously, and application of "small" to various sized units. Some individuals through intent, others through disorientation, mentioned roads outside the inventory that disqualified the unit as wilderness. Many comments were received that pertain to how the land should be best used (e.g., rockhounding, mining, land exchanges, fire control methods, and wildlife management). The Pawnee Mine and access road were frequently cited as conflicting with wilderness.

The many comments concerning how to manage the unit apply to study phase considerations. The procedural comments, if followed, would require ignoring the intent and mandates of Congress. Comments about features outside the unit, sights and sound doctrine, were not used to evaluate the unit.

CA-060-021A, Comb's Peak A
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southern boundary is the California Department of Forestry firebreak. Nonpublic lands form the boundaries to the west and north. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park forms the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands. The proposed wilderness study area, which lies within the intensive inventory unit, contains 71 acres, all of which are public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a side ridge that extends to the main Bucksnort Mountain Ridge. Generally, dense chaparral covers the unit, but brief openings are found in the vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Neither roads nor ways intrude into the area. Several rock cairns exist along the ridgeline, but no evidence was found indicating active mining claims. Similar cairns were found in the unit's southeastern streambed. In general the unit is in a natural condition.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

With the exception of the area identified as a potential wilderness study area (also adjacent to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's potential wilderness area), the shape and size of the unit (460 acres) limits opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments varied from general references to gemstone deposits and mines in the region to being potential bighorn sheep habitat. More specific comments referred to managing the area for fire protection, hiking access and wildlife protection. Some public comments agreed with BLM findings.

No mines were found within the unit. Questions of potential mineral and gem deposits are study phase considerations and so are comments on managing the unit.

CA-060-021B, Comb's Peak B
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park forms the eastern boundary of the unit. A truck trail to Lost Valley forms the northern boundary. The western and southern boundaries are formed by nonpublic lands.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit lies predominantly within an intermittent stream channel. The unit is covered with dense chaparral with some live oak riparian communities in the lower areas. There are some open, sparsely vegetated areas resulting from previous wild fires.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A powerline and firebreak substantially impact the naturalness of the unit. These intrusions are highly visible from any point within the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the unit's small size (76 acres) and intrusions, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are very limited.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments varied from general references to gemstone deposits and mines in the region to being potential bighorn sheep habitat. More specific comments referred to managing the area for fire protection, hiking access, and wildlife protection. Some public comments agreed with BLM findings.

No mines were found within the unit. Questions of potential mineral and gem deposits are study phase considerations and so are comments on managing the unit.

CA-060-022, San Ysidro Mountain
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Los Coyotes Indian Reservation and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park comprise the northern and eastern boundaries, respectively. Nonpublic lands form the south and east boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Two patented mines are encompassed by the unit's 2,721 acres of public land, but the proposed 2,131-acre wilderness study area does not encompass either patented mine.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The top of San Ysidro Mountain comprises the northern portion of the unit. The remaining area has a southern aspect and contains Bergstrom, Buck, and Cherry Canyons. The terrain is steep and is covered with pine at the summit, chaparral on the higher slopes, and desert scrub near the bottom.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In Bergstrom and Buck Canyons, a system of roads, mines, and buildings exists. Development is so extensive that this portion of the unit has been excluded as a potential wilderness study area. The northeastern part of the unit has been burned in the past and required tree plantings to encourage regeneration of the pine forest at the higher elevations. No other intrusions were seen in the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit is physically confining to the recreation user. However, when considered in combination with the state's Sheep Canyon potential wilderness area, the unit would be of sufficient size to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation. The unit's limited access, broken topography, and vegetation also contribute to these factors.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments differed. Specific mention was made to the roads, mines, and houses in Buck Canyon. Support was given to the area's hiking potential. Also voiced was that the unit could not meet wilderness criteria if its contiguity with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was ignored. Support was given for wilderness designation even though a tree plantation is within the unit. Comments on future management concentrated on wildlife protection, maximum walking distance to the center of a future wilderness, providing public access to Cherry Canyon Road. Mineral resources are more important and should receive more consideration than wilderness.

Comments on resource allocation and management practices are study phase considerations. Developments in Buck and Bergstrom Canyons support their exclusion from the wilderness study area designation.

CA-060-023, San Felipe Hills
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The entire boundary is composed of nonpublic lands with the exception of 2 miles that are contiguous to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park on the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands. The proposed wilderness study area, which includes nearly the entire inventory unit, contains 5,265 acres, all of which are public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit consists of a 9-mile long ridge extending southeast to northwest. The steep-sided ridge is predominately covered by dense chaparral, the lower areas by sparse desert scrub.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The naturalness of the unit has been somewhat impaired by the existence of trails; however, they are slowly disappearing. Some interior fencing can be seen within the unit. A powerline crosses along the northeastern boundary of the area and defines the edge of the proposed wilderness study area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The dense vegetation and rugged topography provide excellent screening capabilities, enhancing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following viewpoints. The unit should not become a wilderness area because valuable minerals and rare earths are believed to be located within the unit. The area should be open for rockhounders to use their vehicles in searching for rocks. Roads, radio towers, ranches and houses outside the unit, but near the boundary, should disqualify the unit from wilderness classification. Others believe that the area is in a natural condition and is contiguous with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and should be classified as wilderness.

The comments have concurred with BLM's reports, referred to areas outside the unit or are wilderness study phase considerations. No new facts were mentioned.

CA-060-024A, Sawtooth Mountains A
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded on the north and northeast by nonpublic lands. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park borders on the west and the Cleveland National Forest on the south. Unit CA-060-024B borders on the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public land. The proposed wilderness study area, which includes all the intensive inventory unit except a small parcel in the northeast corner, contains a total of 3,892 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominating feature in the unit is an east-west ridge that rises above the Vallecito Valley to the north. The sides of the ridge are very steep and are covered with sparse desert scrub near the base to dense chaparral near the ridge top. Active grazing occurs in the lower elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is in a natural state with almost no evidence of man's actions.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The limited access and rugged topography provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Based on Forest Service review, a potential exists to include approximately 2,000 acres of the Cleveland National Forest with this intensive inventory unit and Unit CA-060-024B, for a combined total of nearly 30,000 acres of potential wilderness. This would further increase opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

CA-060-024B, Sawtooth Mountains B
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Cuyapaipe Indian Reservation and the Cleveland National Forest comprise the west boundary of the unit. The north and southeast boundaries are comprised of nonpublic lands. The east boundary is Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Manzanita Indian Reservation forms the south boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 31,006 acres of public land encompass 38 acres of private ownership. The proposed wilderness study area contains 24,419 acres of BLM-administered land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the unit varies from flat valley bottom to steep rugged mountainsides. The higher elevations support a dense chaparral vegetation; the lower valley areas and lower ridges are covered with sparse desert scrub. Active grazing occurs throughout the lower portion of the unit.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The central portion of this unit, which includes the proposed wilderness study area, is in a natural condition with few impacts of man. Roads extend into the unit, but are not substantially noticeable. Pipelines and numerous trails impact the naturalness of the extreme northern end of the unit. The southern one-third of the area contains White Arrow and Cottonwood Campgrounds associated with the McCain Valley Recreation Area. Intensive off-road vehicle use occurs around these sites, creating numerous trails. An east-west fence and rugged topography effectively eliminate the spread of these off-road vehicle trails into the remaining area of the unit to the north. Two airfields at the eastern end of Canbrake Wash were excluded from the proposed wilderness study area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Within the proposed wilderness study area, some areas of dense vegetation, rugged topography, and limited access provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the southern area, intensive off-road vehicle use and numerous associated trails adversely impact opportunities for solitude and limit primitive recreation experiences.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

CA-060-024C, Sawtooth Mountains C
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Nonpublic lands and Canebrake Wash Road constitute the northwest boundary of the unit. The remaining boundaries are defined by Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This unit of public land does not encompass any private land. The proposed wilderness study area amounts to 2,509 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is a steep, northwest-facing slope overlooking Canebrake Wash. The area is sparsely covered with desert scrub and exposed rock.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of a small portion of an airfield which extends a short distance into the northernmost portion of the unit, the area is not impacted by man due to limited access and rugged steep topography.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Standing on its own, this unit is too small and confined to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. However, the unit is contiguous to the proposed Sombrero Peak State Wilderness Area, and when viewed collectively, provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to rugged topography and limited access.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

CA-060-024D, Sawtooth Mountains D
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The McCain Valley Road borders the unit on the west. A service road on the north, nonpublic lands, and the Canebrake Road join to form the remainder of the boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is composed of rolling hills covered with sparse desert scrub vegetation, with scattered areas of chaparral. The area receives intense off-road vehicle use.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Intensive off-road vehicle use in the unit has resulted in the presence of numerous trails and ways which greatly affect the naturalness of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The small size (1,000 acres) and the intensive off-road vehicle use which occurs in the area allow little opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

CA-060-24E, Sawtooth Mountains E
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Manzanita Indian Reservation defines the southern boundary of the unit. Canebrake and McCain Valley Roads form the east boundary. The north boundary is formed by the White Arrow Campground Road. Service roads and nonpublic lands comprise the west boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit is composed of desert scrub and chaparral-covered rolling hills. The area receives intensive off-road vehicle use.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Intensive off-road vehicle use, resulting in the formation of numerous trails and ways, has significantly reduced the natural values of this unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's extremely small size (633 acres) and intensive off-road vehicle use limits opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

CA-060-025A, Eastern McCain Valley A
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park borders the unit on the north and east. Nonpublic lands border on the south. The road through Redondo Flats to the McCain Valley Road, the Manzanita-Cottonwood Road, and nonpublic lands border on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 22,082 acres of public land encompass 639 acres of private lands. The proposed wilderness study area contains 14,573 acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The eastern portion of the unit is a plateau that drops off into steep canyons and mountainsides. The vegetation varies from chaparral to desert scrub. The unit is used by the peninsular bighorn sheep.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western portion of the unit contains many impacts of man. They consist of roads servicing grazing developments, numerous active mining sites near Sacatone Spring and Mt. Tule, and many visible off-road vehicle trails in the "Competition Hill" area. In contrast, the eastern portion of the unit, which is proposed as a wilderness study area, contains few off-road vehicle trails, no mining activity, and is generally unaffected by man. Bow Willow Canyon, a research natural area designated to protect its unique palm groves, enhances the natural values of the unit. A few water developments exist in the area, but are considered substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

In the western portion of the unit, evidence of ORV use and cattle grazing reduces the primitive recreation qualities. The same factors constantly remind the user that man still intrudes in the area. The eastern portion does provide an excellent opportunity for outstanding solitude in the winding canyons. The proposed Jacumba Mountains State Wilderness Area is contiguous with the eastern border. If the areas were combined as wilderness, an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined recreation experience would be provided.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has express the following varied viewpoints. Developed roads exist in the unit along with mines and a runway. Land was donated to the State Park for recreation and picnicking. To declare that land as wilderness would defy the terms of the donation. As a wilderness area, multiple use would be eliminated in Rockhouse Canyon. This should not be allowed. Developed campgrounds, such as Lark Canyon, should not be included within a wilderness area. A heavy concentration of mining occurs at Sacatone Springs. The area should be protected under wilderness classification because it is in a natural condition and would protect bighorn sheep habitat.

Because of the marked concern over developments such as the mining claims at Sacatone Springs, the developed portions of the unit were not recommended to become wilderness study areas. Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations.

CA-060-025B, Eastern McCain Valley B
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by the McCain Valley to the west and south. Nonpublic lands define the boundary to the north and east, with the Manzanita-Cottonwood Road forming a portion of the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The rolling topography of this unit is covered with a moderately dense stand of chaparral. The unit is receiving intensive off-road vehicle use and some grazing.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Numerous off-road vehicle trails substantially degrade the naturalness of this relatively small (1,002 acres) inventory unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the unit's small size, intensive off-road vehicle use, and moderately dense vegetation, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are extremely limited.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. Developed roads exist in the unit along with mines and a runway. Land was donated to the State Park for recreation and picnicking. To declare that land as wilderness would defy the terms of the donation. As a wilderness area, multiple use would be eliminated in Rockhouse Canyon. This should not be allowed. Developed campgrounds, such as Lark Canyon, should not be included within a wilderness area. A heavy concentration of mining occurs at Sacatone Springs. The area should be protected under wilderness classification because it is in a natural condition and would protect bighorn sheep habitat.

Because of the marked concern over developments, such as the mining claims at Sacatone Springs, the developed portions of the unit were not recommended to become wilderness study areas. Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations.

CA-060-026, Table Mountain
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Interstate 8 defines the unit's southern boundary. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park forms the western and northern boundaries. A powerline road and nonpublic lands comprise the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire area is composed of public land. The proposed wilderness study area, which lies in the northern portion of the intensive inventory unit, contains 708 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Table Mountain and Gray Mountain are the dominant features in the unit. A majority of the unit is composed of sparse desert scrub vegetation. The topography is broken by several drainages with rolling hills and steep mountain slopes. The northern portion, containing the proposed wilderness study area, is composed of low rolling mountains. The central portion of the unit supports intensive off-road vehicle use.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Numerous intrusions, including off-road vehicle trails and mining scars, are scattered throughout the central and eastern portions of the unit. The northern portion contains a small area (708 acres) behind a rugged ridgeline which has received little mining and off-road vehicle use. This area is contiguous to the proposed Jacumba Mountains State Wilderness Area, and thus receives consideration as a proposed wilderness study area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the small size and intensive off-road vehicle use occurring in the lower two-thirds of this unit, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited. The northern portion is effectively screened from the lower portions by a ridgeline, thus providing these opportunities when viewed in conjunction with the State's proposed wilderness area in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area should be preserved to protect the bighorn sheep. Roads and mines are located within the unit. Rockhounders should be able to drive into the unit.

Field examination did not disclose new roads in the unit. Instead, numerous vehicle ways have scarred the central section. Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations.

CA-060-027A, Hauser Mountain A
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The South Boundary Road defines the southern and western boundaries of the unit. The Cleveland National Forest comprises the northern boundary and nonpublic lands form the boundary to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The unit is composed entirely of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unit lies on the southern wall of Hauser Canyon and has a dense covering of chaparral.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been unaffected by man.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Due to the unit's small size (38 acres) and aspect, opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation are extremely limited.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. Concurrence with BLM findings. The area should be maintained for grazing use. Rehabilitation will eliminate the signs of man.

The comments either pertain to the wilderness study phase or contain no additional information.

CA-060-27B, Hauser Mountain B
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Harris Road forms the west boundary of this unit, with South Boundary Road providing the north boundary. Nonpublic lands border the unit on the east. A combination of nonpublic lands and access roads form the south boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit consists of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The plateau's rolling hills are covered by a mixture of chaparral and live oak stands. The area is actively grazed by cattle.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Numerous trails traverse the unit. The trails are heavily eroded and devoid of vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's small size (636 acres) and numerous trails limit opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. Concurrence with BLM findings. The area should be maintained for grazing use. Rehabilitation will eliminate the signs of man.

The comments either pertain to the wilderness study phase or contain no additional information.

CA-060-027C, Hauser Mountain C
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by nonpublic lands on the east, State Highway 94 to the south, the Harris Road to the west, and intensive inventory Unit CA-060-027B to the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands. The proposed wilderness study area, which includes the entire intensive inventory unit, contains 5,489 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The vegetation varies from chaparral and live oak to grass. The rolling plateau areas in the northern portion of the unit extend south and east to steep, rocky mountain slopes. The area is actively grazed by cattle.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A few unmaintained trails and some barbed wire fences exist in the area, but are substantially unnoticeable and do not significantly detract from the naturalness of the area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The dense vegetation, limited legal access, and rolling to steep topography will effectively screen users from one another, providing opportunities for both solitude and primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. Concurrence with BLM findings. The area should be maintained for grazing use. Rehabilitation will eliminate the signs of man.

The comments either pertain to the wilderness study phase or contain no additional information.

CA-060-027D, Hauser Mountain D
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The unit is bounded by CA-060-027B and CA-060-027C on the west and northwest. Nonpublic lands border the unit on the east and south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire unit is composed of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's rolling hills are covered with a mixture of chaparral and live oak stands. The area is actively grazed by livestock.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Trails, which are eroding and devoid of vegetation, traverse the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The unit's small size (73 acres) and eroded trails severely limit the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. Concurrence with BLM findings. The area should be maintained for grazing use. Rehabilitation will eliminate the signs of man.

The comments either pertain to the wilderness study phase or contain no additional information.

CA-060-028, Western Otay Mountain
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The California Department of Forestry firebreak and truck trail form the west and north boundaries. Nonpublic land and the Mexican border form the east and south boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The intensive inventory unit consists of 5,750 acres of public land that encompass 167 acres of private land. The proposed wilderness study area includes the entire intensive inventory unit.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A majority of the unit is covered with a chaparral type of vegetation. Stands of Tecate Cypress, a rare and endangered plant species, can be found scattered throughout the unit. The steep mountain slopes have a northwesterly aspect cut by several small drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of an access road to a nonpublic land inholding, the unit is in a natural condition. The dense vegetation and steep slopes discourage any foot or vehicle access into the interior of the unit.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The remoteness of the area, the steep mountain slopes, the limited access, and the dense vegetation provide excellent opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The Tecate Cypress is a rare plant and should be protected. Excellent hiking combines with the unit's scenic vistas. Existing roads and communication sites should be maintained. Several comments did concur with BLM findings.

Most of the comments expressed study phase concerns. The communication sites and roads mentioned are in a developed right-of-way outside the inventory unit.

CA-060-029, Southern Otay Mountain
(Map 06-R)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The California Department of Forestry firebreak and truck trail form the west and north boundaries. Nonpublic land and the Mexican border form the east and south boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 7,958 acre unit of public land encompasses a narrow inholding of nonpublic land that comes within a quarter of a mile of cutting the unit in half. The proposed wilderness study area, which includes essentially the entire intensive inventory unit, contains 7,940 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A majority of the unit is covered with a chaparral vegetative type of vegetation. Stands of Tecate Cypress, a rare and endangered plant species, can be found scattered throughout the unit. The steep mountain slopes have a south-easterly aspect cut by several small drainages.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of a few small trails branching off the firebreak which identify the north boundary of the unit, the area is in a natural condition. The dense vegetation and steep slopes discourage any foot or vehicle access into the interior of the area. A patented mine located in the extreme northeast corner of the unit has been excluded from the potential wilderness study area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The remoteness of the area, the steep mountainsides, the limited access, and the dense vegetation insure the user a primitive recreation experience with a high degree of solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The Tecate Cypress is a rare plant and should be protected. Excellent hiking combines with the unit's scenic vistas. Existing roads and communication sites should be maintained. Several comments did concur with BLM findings.

Most of the comments expressed study phase concerns. The communication sites and roads mentioned are in a developed right-of-way outside the inventory unit.

Wilderness Review of the public lands administered by BLM was mandated by Congress in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (Public Law 94-579).

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WILDERNESS STUDY

Review; report to President. 43 USC 1782.

SEC. 603. (a) Within fifteen years after the date of approval of this Act, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by section 201(a) of this Act as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and shall from time to time report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness: *Provided*, That prior to any recommendations for the designation of an area as wilderness the Secretary shall cause mineral surveys to be conducted by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall report to the President by July 1, 1980, his recommendations on those areas which the Secretary has prior to November 1, 1975, formally identified as natural or primitive areas. The review required by this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act.

Report to President.

Recommendations to President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.

(b) The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to designation as wilderness of each such area, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice by the President shall be given within two years of the receipt of each report from the Secretary. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

Regulation.

(c) During the period of review of such areas and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands according to his authority under this Act and other applicable law in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, subject, however, to the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this Act: *Provided*, That, in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection. Unless previously withdrawn from appropriation under the mining laws, such lands shall continue to be subject to such appropriation during the period of review unless withdrawn by the Secretary under the procedures of section 204 of this Act for reasons other than preservation of their wilderness character. Once an area has been designated for preservation as wilderness, the provisions of the Wilderness Act which apply to national forest wilderness areas shall apply with respect to the administration and use of such designated area, including mineral surveys required by section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act, and mineral development, access, exchange of lands, and ingress and egress for mining claimants and occupants.

Ante, p. 2751.

16 USC 1131 note.

16 USC 1133.

WILDERNESS ACT

Public Law 88-577 September 3, 1964

To Establish a National Wilderness Preservation System

Section 2(c) Definition of Wilderness

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

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